

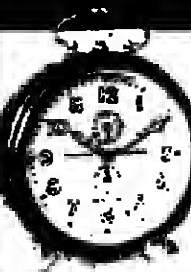
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Iran vows to send a million pilgrims to Makkah

BEIRUT, March 28, (UPI): A senior Iranian Guidance Ministry official, Sheikh Mohammed Ali Tashkiri, said today one million of his countrymen would travel to Makkah for this year's annual pilgrimage.

Tashkiri headed Iran's delegation to the foreign ministers' meeting of the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) in Amman last week, at which Saudi Arabia said it would limit the number of visitors to the pilgrimage starting in mid-July.

Saudi officials have vowed they will prevent a recurrence of the violence during last year's pilgrimage, in which more than 400 people died in clashes with security men trying to disperse Iranian-led demonstrations.

The OIC supported the Saudi decision to restrict the number of pilgrims.

Paperweight worth a fortune

BLUERIDGE, Georgia, March 28, (UPI): What may eventually turn out to be the world's largest, blue star sapphire, possibly worth a fortune, was until recently just a paperweight on the hospital desk of an X-ray technician.

Steve Meyer, 32, and his fellow gem hunter, Craig Peden, found the crystal corundum near Canton, north Carolina, shortly before Christmas while searching for gemstones.

Meyer was using the sapphire for a paperweight at his hospital office until a patient suggested he have it looked at by a gemologist.

The crystal is now in the hands of one of America's leading gem cutters, John Robinson of Dallas, who said yesterday it could be the world's largest blue star sapphire.

"I'm polishing it now and it's looking prettier every day," said Robinson. "What's it worth? I can't say. How do you place a value on the largest of anything?"

Harsh measures taken to forestall Land Day violence

Israel seals off occupied areas

OCCUPIED Jerusalem, March 28, (Reuters): The Israeli Army announced today it was closing the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip for three days to forestall violent demonstrations, in a move unprecedented since the areas were captured in the 1967 Middle East war.

"In the interest of maintaining law, order and security in Judea and Samaria (the West Bank) and the Gaza Strip the following steps will be taken: 'Starting tomorrow morning in the West Bank, and tonight in Gaza, the residents of the areas will not be allowed to enter Israel until Friday, April 1, the West Bank and Gaza will be declared closed military areas.'

Outbreak

Before the Army issued its statement on the territories, security forces began mobilising throughout Israel for the next expected outbreak of unrest, on Wednesday or "Land Day", which commemorates the 1976 killing of six Arabs demonstrating against Israeli seizure of land.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, meanwhile, slammed US Secretary of State George Shultz for meeting two Palestinian-Americans and renewed his opposition to a US Middle East peace plan.

The statement was unusually blunt and came just six days ahead of a return Middle East visit by Shultz.

The Army statement said the closure of the occupied territories would stop movement of residents from the West Bank to Jordan via the Jordan River bridges. The bridges would remain open to visitors entering the West Bank from Jordan.

"Movement of the media in the occupied areas will be with the approval and accompaniment of an Army spokesman."



A Palestinian tries to get out of his car as it fills up with tear gas fired by Israeli soldiers in Ramallah. (Reuters wirephoto)

the statement added.

It will be the first time media movements have been restricted throughout the occupied areas.

The Israeli Army, in a policy switch, has already imposed a virtual news blackout.

Spokesmen have been barred from giving details of mass arrests, economic sanctions, detentions without trial and the opening of new prison camps.

Security sources said the restrictions will not apply to the nearly 70,000 Israeli settlers living in the occupied areas.

The sources said the Rafah checkpoint connecting the Gaza Strip with Egypt would remain open.

Indications

Security sources said the Army decided to impose the restrictions after being informed that Palestinian residents of the territories were planning violent demonstrations on Wednesday.

The sources said there were indications Palestinians planned to use firearms during their protests. They said the restrictions also aimed to cut links between Palestinians in the occupied areas and Israel's 700,000 Arab citizens.

Other restrictions during the next three days include curfews on specific areas, especially in the Gaza Strip, and the closure of roads between major towns inside the occupied areas, the security sources said.

Army inspection of cars, licences and identification documents would also be increased, the sources said. Legal measures would be taken against Palestinians found without documents.

Security sources said 4,000 police would be on alert in Israel on Wednesday and Army helicopters would be ready to rush them to trouble spots. Police issued permits for four Arab rallies inside Israel.

"The police call-up means holidays are cancelled, they don't work eight hours, but 12 or more," Police Minister Haim Bar-Lev said.

The 1.5 million Palestinians in the occupied areas observed a near total commercial and transport strike today, as part of the

15-week-old uprising against Israeli rule.

Troops shot and slightly wounded a Palestinian in the Dheisheh refugee camp in the West Bank, the Army said, but the area was relatively quiet. The death toll since the uprising began last December is 115 Palestinians and one Israeli soldier.

So far, about 4,000 Palestinians have been arrested.

Israeli cabinet minister Ezer Weizman warned that the situation in the Middle East will worsen if Israel rejects the US peace plan.

British opposition Labour Party leader Neil Kinnock said today that rapid change was needed to curb the escalating violence in the Israeli-occupied territories of the West Bank and Gaza.

"The situation is never going to be the same as it was before last December, and as the state of emergency lengthens and deepens, so the sense of urgency must intensify," he said in an address in the board of deputies of British Jews.

Iran raids two ships as Iraq fires missiles at Qom

DUBAI, March 28, (Reuters): Iranian gunboats attacked two supertankers in the southern Gulf today, Iraqi fired three missiles at Iran's holy city of Qom and Iranian rebels reported a major offensive.

Iran claimed its forces beat off an Iraqi counterattack in Kurdistan and now hold 1,400 square kilometres of area in the region.

An Iraqi war communique said the salvo of missiles, launched as the "war of the cities" entered its second month, was fired in revenge Iranian shelling of Iraqi cities and border towns.

Iran, which said its gunners pounded the southern port of Basra and five other towns overnight and today, reported that civilians were killed or wounded by Iraqi air raids on three western cities.

Iraq said its jets raided four Iranian cities.

Grenade

Shipping sources said Iranian gunboats fired a rocket-propelled grenade at the 337,700-tonne Danish-flag Karama Maersk 14 miles off the United Arab Emirates (UAE), tearing a gaping hole in the hull.

The gunboats also attacked the 219,387-tonne Liberian tanker Gular Kansai, the sources said. Tugs put out fires on both ships and no one was reported hurt.

The sources said the Karama Maersk, which sustained minor damage in an Iranian gunboat attack in December, was heading for repairs in the UAE port of Fujairah.

"Neither ship hit today was in danger of sinking," a shipping source said. "The gunboats' weapons just aren't big enough."

Iraq said today its planes hit a ship yesterday near Iran's Lavan Island in the southern Gulf. There was an independent confirmation.

An Iraqi-based Iranian opposition group said it launched a big offensive at midnight yesterday across the southern section of the central war front in Iran's Khuzistan province.

Crushed

The Iranian News Agency Irna and Tehran Radio said Iran crushed the offensive and inflicted 1,000 casualties on Iraqi troops and Khalk fighters.

It said Iranian jets bombed Iraqi troops and armour taking part in the offensive and also attacked enemy positions in Iraq's northeastern province of Sulaymaniyah, where Iran says its Revolutionary Guards have seized a large swathe of territory.

Tehran Radio said Iranian gunners shot down two Iraqi aircraft in Sulaymaniyah province. Iranian forces there say they are closing in on a dam which provides hydro-electric power for Baghdad.

Irna said two United Nations experts arrived today and examined victims of chemical weapons in Tehran hospitals.

Meanwhile, Britain has told Norwegian shipowners that placing their vessels under the British flag does not guarantee them Royal Navy protection against increasing attacks by Iran and Iraq in the Gulf.

The Foreign Office and the Department of Transport said today that the British embassy in Oslo had raised the issue with the Norwegian Shipowners' Association (NSA).

Reflagging

"It is a well known fact that reflagging a vessel does not automatically entitle the owner to naval protection," a Department of Transport spokesman said.

Both ministries refused to disclose details of the talks, saying the reflagging of ships was a commercial matter.

Lloyd's list, the London specialist shipping newspaper, quoted NSA sources as saying "the British would not like to see (Norwegian) owners reflagging for protection."

About 2,000 Yugoslav workers in Baghdad have been told to leave the city to avoid fighting between Iraq and Iran, the state news agency Tanjug reported today in Belgrade.

Protest

VIENNA, (AP): Police arrested more than 60 people yesterday when Kurdish demonstrators gathered at the Iraqi consulate to protest reported Iraqi chemical attacks. Police said six shots were fired during the protest.

Saudi official blasts Israel

RIYADH, March 28, (AP): A defence official has denounced Israeli "threats" to Saudi Arabia after its purchase of intermediate missiles as a "flagrant interference" in the kingdom's domestic affairs. Riyadh Radio reported today.

The state-run broadcast said Deputy Defence Minister Prince Abdul Rahman Bin Abdul Aziz spoke yesterday at a graduation ceremony at the Air Defence Academy in Jeddah.

It said the Saudi prince was responding to a question about Israeli "threats" to the kingdom over the purchase of CSS-2 mis-

siles from China.

The missiles, which can carry nuclear warheads, have a range of 2,200 miles (3,500 kms) and could hit any Middle East capital. Saudi Arabia has said it had no intention of equipping them with nuclear warheads.

Saudi Arabia, like most Arab states, is at war with Israel and the disclosure of the deal has prompted warnings from Israeli leaders.

Arab states have condemned the Israeli reaction.

The possibility of a pre-emptive Israeli strike on the missiles was reported in the Washington

Post. Yossi Ben Aharon, a top aide to Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, has warned that Israel had the reputation of "not waiting till potential dangers become a reality."

Prince Abdul Rahman said he considered the Israeli statements as a "flagrant interference in affairs concerning the kingdom's security and sovereignty."

He lauded Arab support, saying: "Reactions to the Israeli threats... were very demonstrative and affirmed Arab solidarity in securing comprehensive Arab security against any foreign threat."

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○ اسرائیل نے مقبوضہ علاقوں سے اسرائیلی داخلے

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WEATHER

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Low water: 4.00 am, 4.00 pm

Sunrise: 5.41 am

Sunset: 6.05 pm

Maximum temperature recorded:

Kuwait: 28°C 82°F

Ahmad: 25°C 77°F

Falaka: 24°C 75°F

Maximum temperature expected:

Kuwait: 28°C 82°F

Ahmad: 25°C 77°F

Falaka: 25°C 77°F

Minimum temperature recorded:

Kuwait: 13°C 55°F

Ahmad: 18°C 64°F

Falaka: 19°C 66°F

Maximum humidity recorded:

Kuwait: 65 per cent

Ahmad: 75 per cent

Falaka: 76 per cent

Maximum humidity expected:

Kuwait: 70 per cent

Ahmad: 78 per cent

Falaka: 81 per cent

Benazir to share power by 1990, says report

LONDON, March 28, (Reuters): Pakistani opposition leader Benazir Bhutto will form a coalition government by 1990, according to a British newsletter on future political developments in South Asia.

The Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU) said that since martial law was lifted in Pakistan two years ago, "civilisation" had progressed more smoothly than expected in view of the animosity between Benazir and President Mohammad Zia-ul-Haq.

Dimension

"The process will culminate in 1990 in Benazir Bhutto and her Pakistan People's Party (PPP) forming a coalition government," the EIU said in its report published on Tuesday.

It predicted the PPP would overcome the reservations of the Army and the rise of new regional parties bidding for votes among its supporters.

Benazir, 34, is the daughter of former Prime Minister Zulfikar

Ali Bhutto, who was executed by Zia.

She returned from exile in April 1986 in spearhead an opposition challenge and foreign diplomats and analysts believe her PPP is potentially the biggest political force in the country.

The EIU also predicted the Indian Army was in for a long period of peace-keeping in Sri Lanka, where 50,000 Indian soldiers are deployed to disarm the island state's main rebel group, the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam.

The report said the separatist rebellion by the Tamil minority could assume a wider regional dimension through foreign military involvement after a series of elections scheduled for the next 18 months.

It predicted the ruling United National Party (UNP) will retain power but be weakened by internal division and a reduced majority in the National Assembly, possibly affecting its ability to ensure Sri Lanka's survival as



Benazir

a unitary state.

"Such circumstances could even provoke military intervention in the name of political groups pledged to uphold national unity and end the Indian presence," according to the report.

Palestinian role realised: Arafat

BAGHDAD, March 28, (Agencies): PLO leader Yasser Arafat said today Secretary of State George Shultz now realised the US peace plan for the Middle East could not succeed without Palestinian participation.

"I believe Shultz now knows the fact that he is unable to go ahead with the Middle East plan without the representatives of the Palestinian people," Arafat, chairman of the PLO, said.

"Shultz's meeting on Saturday with (Palestinian-Americans) Edward Said and Ibrahim Abu Lughud, by itself, means that America has started to take this fact into account," he said.

Shultz is due to return to the Middle East next Sunday in a fresh bid to promote the proposals, which call for an international conference in mid-April followed by talks on interim Palestinian self-rule and direct Arab-Israeli discussions.

The plan does not mention the

PLO and says Palestinians should be represented in a joint delegation with Jordan. The PLO wants to be represented on a footing equal with other parties.

The PLO said yesterday that the Shultz meeting with the Palestinian-Americans was an important step because both were members of the Palestine National Council.

An Arab League delegation was to arrive in the United States today for a scheduled meeting with Shultz in Washington tomorrow to discuss the Palestinian uprising in the occupied territories.

Press reports published in Abu Dhabi indicated that the US administration has decided to give PLO director of the political department Farouk Kaddumi an entry visa to the US after contacts made by a number of Arab foreign ministers with the US State Department.

Yamani lost job because he grew too important

LONDON, March 28, (Reuters): Ahmed Zaki Yamani lost his job as the Saudi Arabian oil minister in 1986 due to policy disputes, according to a biography published today.

The abrupt firing of the man seen as the architect of Opec's (Organisation of Oil Exporting Countries) rise in the 1970s stunned the oil world and made many experts wonder if the organisation would lose its authority.

American authority Jeffrey Robinson, in "Yamani: The Inside Story," says King Fahd dismissed Yamani because he felt Saudi Arabia's highest-ranking non-royal had grown too important.

The king also opposed Yamani's policy of turning up

the taps to restore Opec's share of the world energy market, which had declined since the 1973 Arab oil embargo as a result of Western efforts to develop new sources such as the North Sea that were outside Opec control.

Tactic

Yamani wanted to force non-Opec producers to cut output. But his tactic, creating a glut, also drove down prices by 60 per cent to nine dollars in mid-1986 and slashed Saudi revenues.

The king wanted Yamani to press for both higher production and an oil price at \$18 a barrel at an October, 1986, Opec meeting. Yamani put up some resistance and a week later heard on television he had lost his job, Robinson says.

Robinson said Yamani had a free hand in oil policy under Fahd's predecessor and elder brother, King Faisal.

Faisal regarded Yamani like a son and trusted his knowledge and negotiating skills. But Yamani was on uncertain ground after Faisal was shot dead by a nephew in 1975 and was succeeded by Khaled and then Fahd, Robinson says.

Yamani emerges from the book as a man of intelligence and charm, deeply devoted to his family and his Muslim faith, who rose from a Makkah boyhood to become a jet-setting world figure and custodian of one-third of the non-communist world's oil.

When Faisal made him oil

minister in 1962, he was 32, a shy, US-educated lawyer. Over the next 11 years, as his confidence and skills grew, Yamani master-minded negotiations through which Saudi Arabia took control of its oil resources from the US multinationals and helped to build Opec.

Rush

When the 1973 Arab-Israeli war broke out, and Faisal opted for an Arab oil embargo against Israel's Western backers, Yamani organised it.

Later, however, Yamani seemed an Opec "moderate" trying to brake the rush to yet higher prices in the second oil "shock" of 1979 at the time of the revolution in Iran.

Robinson said Yamani is still shaken by Faisal's death, which he witnessed, and by a 1975 incident when he and other Opec ministers were abducted by the international guerrilla, Carlos or "the Jackal."

He also told Robinson that he still spends half his life travelling, giving lectures and attending to his publishing company, charitable trusts and real estate holdings worldwide.

His thoughts are still very much on oil and he says the next energy crisis is less than 10 years away. "There will be a shortage," he is quoted as saying.

Yamani predicted that by the early 1990s the world oil market and Opec will be dominated by key Gulf producers.

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INTERNATIONAL

Gephardt pulls out of presidential race

WASHINGTON, March 28. (Agencies): Missouri representative Richard Gephardt, whose populist tough-trade message failed to sustain him beyond a heady Iowa triumph, decided to withdraw today from the Democratic presidential race.

Battered by a dismal showing in the Michigan caucuses that became a do-or-die proposition for his candidacy, Gephardt called a Capitol Hill news conference this afternoon for what sources revealed in advance would be the end of his campaign and the start of his bid for reelection to a seventh House term.

Gephardt, 47, was the first major Democrat to announce his 1988 presidential aspirations, but 13 months later — and less than two months after his victory in the Feb. 8 Iowa caucuses — the sources said he would become the fourth to pull out of the volatile White House race.

Decision

The pragmatic lawyer from St. Louis made the decision as he spent the day after Michigan's Saturday vote conferring with advisors and talking with his wife and three children.

Gephardt's campaign officials would not elaborate in announcing the news conference.

26 journalists killed, 59 assaulted in 1987

NEW YORK, March 28. (UPI): Twenty-six journalists worldwide were murdered in the line of duty last year, including 20 whose work was so controversial they were "hunted like rats," a report said yesterday.

Only six of the 26 journalists killed in 1987 died when accidentally caught in a fire. The rest appeared to have been singled out and "intentionally eliminated," said an annual report by the Committee to Protect Journalists. The report listed 59 assaults on journalists, and more than 180 arrests or kidnappings of journalists.

"In the words of one local reporter, local and foreign press were 'hunted like rats.' Cameras, film and tapes were destroyed or confiscated," the report said.

"These figures are a grim reminder that even in the midst of a worldwide communications revolution, some still feel the temptation to kill the messenger," said the committee's chairman.

Libya withdraws Army from Egyptian border

LONDON, March 28. (UPI): Libyan leader Moammar Khaddafi announced today the withdrawal of all Libyan forces from the border with Egypt and said Egyptian observers would be invited into the area to confirm the evacuation.

Khaddafi made the announcement at the former British military base at Tobruk during ceremonies marking the 18th anniversary of the eviction of British troops from Libya.

His speech was broadcast live by government-run Libyan television and radio, which was monitored in London by the BBC.

Emphasise

"I hereby declare the withdrawal of all military troops from along the Libyan-Egyptian artificial borders," Khaddafi said. "I want to emphasise to the Egyptian people and Army that the Libyan eastern military zone will finally be abolished."

set for 3 pm (2000 GMT). Yet Gephardt had little choice but to withdraw. He faced bleak prospects on the White House trail and a Tuesday deadline to file for re-election from the home district that first chose him for Congress in 1976.

In St. Louis yesterday, John Temporiti, a Democratic candidate for Gephardt's seat, said the incumbent had sent word he would return to file by the deadline.

Moved

Black civil rights leader Jesse Jackson headed for Connecticut today seeking further victories in the Democratic presidential race after his weekend triumphs.

Following his successes in the Michigan caucus voting, Jackson moved into a virtual tie with Massachusetts Governor Michael Dukakis.

Dukakis also headed for Connecticut, hoping to re-establish himself in Tuesday's primary election there as the Democrats' frontrunner.

State primary elections, part of the presidential selection process, are held to select preferred candidates at the national party conventions in the summer.

man, Josh Friedman, in releasing the annual report. The committee's report, entitled "Attacks on the Press: A Worldwide Survey," said the 26 deaths accounted for only some of the 600 incidents of "press abuse" in 75 countries examined in the detailed study.

In one incident, a Haitian journalist riding in a car clearly marked "press" was shot and wounded.

In Haiti, the report said, the media were a "central target" in the campaign of violence that wrecked the November 1987 presidential election and left 34 people dead.

Among the highlights of the report were disclosures that:

- 59 journalists were physically assaulted during 1987.
- More than 180 journalists were arrested.
- 11 were forced to leave their own countries under threat.
- 32 foreign journalists were expelled from countries where they worked.

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Police seize weapons including rockets

14 killed in Sikh attacks in Punjab

AMRITSAR, March 28. (UPI): Sikh militants today unleashed a wave of pre-dawn attacks on Sikhs and Hindus in the district around the holy city of Amritsar, killing at least 14 people and wounding one other, police said.

But in a major blow to the separatists, police announced that security forces in the district had made the largest ever seizures of extremist weaponry, including Chinese-made assault rifles, Soviet-manufactured anti-tank rockets, explosives and ammunition.

All of today's attacks occurred before dawn in the district centre on Amritsar, 250 miles (400 km) northwest of New Delhi, and brought to at least 630 the number of people slain this year

by Sikh militants fighting since 1983 to establish in Punjab the independent Sikh nation of "Khalistan."

In one assault, eight Sikhs armed with automatic rifles stormed into a home in Mananwal village and shot dead Prakash Chand, his son, and three nephews, police said. The victims were members of Punjab's minority Hindu community, which has borne the brunt of extremist attacks.

Wounded

In another incident, militants shot dead Amrik Singh, a Sikh police officer, and his brother in Cheema Bath village. The assailants critically wounded the victim's sister, police said.

Two other Sikhs, suspected of

being police informers, were killed in a third raid, police said.

Sikh gunmen also attacked three brick kilns, located on the outskirts of Amritsar, killing a total of five people, police said. There were no further details.

The attacks came only hours after authorities yesterday released from jail six prominent supporters of the militants apparently as part of Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's efforts to encourage a new political dialogue with the extremists on settling the Punjab crisis.

The initiative was launched on March 4 with the freeing of 40 Sikhs held for almost four years under national security laws and five Sikh high priests jailed for supporting the demand for

"Khalistan."

Meanwhile, police announced the recovery of arms, ammunition and explosives in two locations in a sweep for extremist weapons caches launched on Wednesday evening by security forces in Amritsar district.

Additional police director General K.P.S. Gill told a news conference in the state capital of Chandigarh that a concrete bunker was unearthed beneath a house in Kularkalan village, about 25 miles (40 km) south of Amritsar.

It, security forces discovered 47 Chinese-made assault rifles, several other firearms, 14 Soviet-manufactured anti-tank rockets, 13 grenades, fuses, assorted explosives and 220 pounds (100

kg) of ammunition, Gill said.

Security forces uncovered another concrete bunker under a home in Vaitoha village, 30 miles (50 km) south of Amritsar, in which they seized nine Chinese-made assault rifles, 61 magazines, seven grenades, and more than 8,000 rounds of ammunition, Gill said.

He said the discoveries represented the "biggest" haul of extremist weaponry "unearthed by security forces in Punjab since terrorism started."

Gill said both caches belonged to the extremist group known as the "Khalistan Commando Force." An undisclosed number of people were arrested and the sweep for other arms stashes was continuing, he said.

Grenade attack hurts 9 in Sri Lanka

COLOMBO, March 28. (Reuters): Nine people were injured when Marxist rebels opposed to a peace accord lobbed three grenades into a local council meeting in southern Sri Lanka today.

Police said six councillors and three officials were hurt in the attack on Matara Urban Council, 160 km (100 miles) south of Colombo. Some chairs, tables and windows were damaged.

A senior police official at Matara said four of the injured were from the ruling United National Party and two from the Communist Party.

Blamed

He said two men of the banned Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna (JVP: People's Liberation Front) hurled into the building, hurled three grenades and fled. Only two exploded.

"We know the identities of the attackers. They are hard-core members of the JVP," he said.

The front has been blamed for a string of killings in the past eight months of government and opposition members who supported the peace accord.

The pact was signed between Sri Lanka and India to end five years of Tamil separatist violence. The JVP, comprising mostly young men from the majority Sinhalese community, has said the accord is a sell-out to India.

Exploded

At Killinochchi in the North, one civilian was killed when a mine planted by Tamil rebel guerrillas exploded between two Indian military vehicles yesterday. Sri Lankan officials said. None of the soldiers was injured.

In the East, two of three Muslims kidnapped by Tiger gunmen at Samanthurai were released today, residents said. They were abducted yesterday, a day after rebels burned 25 Muslim shops at Kalmunai, 16 km (10 miles) away.

Setback for Rajiv

NEW DELHI, March 28. (Reuters): Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's party received a setback in elections to the upper house of Parliament today losing 11 of 19 seats in the Congress (I) to 139 members in the 245-member house after polls for 57 seats which fell vacant after occupants completed their six-year terms.

The setbacks were expected by Rajiv's party because the electoral college comprised the assemblies of 11 Indian states. Eight more upper house seats are at stake in June when Kerala state votes in the second phase of the biennial polls.

The Congress losses were due to its elections losses in nine states since 1983.

Gained

Of the eight seats the opposition gained from Congress, three went to the Janata Party. Elections were disrupted until late evening in one state, Congress-led Gujarat, where clashes erupted during the voting by state assemblies for four seats. In electorally crucial Uttar Pradesh, India's most populous state, Congress won seven of the 11 at stake, with Janata taking two.

Arabs buying bows, arrows

TEL AVIV, March 28. (Reuters): Police in northern Israel have urged the government to require buyers of bows and arrows to obtain licences after Arabs in the area bought up large numbers of the sets, Israel's Itim news agency said.

It said security officers in upper Galilee told Interior Ministry officials the archery equipment could be lethal when fired at a distance of 20 to 40 metres (yards). The sets cost about \$50. Palestinians in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip have used an array of primitive weapons against Israelis, including axes, iron rods and nail-studded road obstacles, during the 15-week uprising.

Nicaragua releases political prisoners

MANAGUA, March 28. (Reuters): After releasing 100 political prisoners as part of a ceasefire agreement, the Nicaraguan government prepared for fresh peace talks with Contra rebels today.

The new talks were expected to focus on logistical problems involved in creating the ceasefire zones in which the US-backed rebels are to assemble under the terms of last week's accord.

The ceasefire agreement commits Contra fighters to moving into the zones during the first 15 days of April to ease tensions while talks continue towards a final peace agreement.

The government's pledge to release more political prisoners is contingent on the rebels' entry into the ceasefire zones.

Sunday's prisoner release marked the government's first concrete step towards compliance with the accord signed last Wednesday at Sapoa on the Costa Rican border.

"We Sandinistas are implacable in battle and generous in victory. We are the first to hold true to our word," said Interior Minister Tomas Borge, regarded as a hardliner, in a speech before the prisoner release.

He said the decision to agree to the amnesty had been painful but added: "It must be pointed out that we have reached an accord that required mutual concessions."

The released prisoners, 99 men and women, included dozens of suspected Contra collaborators and battle-hardened rebels. They were greeted outside the Tipitapa prison on the outskirts of the capital by tearful relatives.

"I'm not thinking about the ceasefire now, I just want to get to Miami and have my back treated," said Roberto Amador Narvaez, one of the freed prisoners.

Amador, who served as a major in the National Guard under deposed dictator Anastasio Somoza, fractured his spinal cord in 1983 when Sandinista forces shot down the single-engine plane he was using to ferry supplies to the Contras.

"I haven't got a passport, I don't even know if I'll be able to leave the country," he told reporters as he left the jail with his wife and children.

He said he had been sentenced to 30 years for "counter-revolutionary activities."

"I never knew what they jailed me for, but it's nice to be out and see my children again," said Donald Esguerra Perez, who said he served 29 months of a four-year sentence for collaborating with the Contras.

Suspected spies

KARLSRUHE, West Germany, March 28. (Reuters): West Germany said today it was holding six suspected Soviet spies and hailed the swoop as a major blow to KGB intelligence gathering operations.

Federal prosecutor Kurt Rebmann told a news conference the arrests were "the biggest blow to the Soviet secret service since the establishment of the Federal Republic (West Germany)." The republic was founded in 1949.

Boy drowns in washing machine

BEIJING, March 28. (Reuters): A three-year-old boy drowned when he fell head-first into a washing machine at his home in rural China.

Warning parents to beware of hazards from household appliances bought in new-found affluence, the Xinmin Evening News said yesterday that when the boy's father went looking for his son "all he saw was two little legs sticking up."

Meanwhile the government announced a major shake-up of its administration to combat overmanning, poor efficiency and duplication of responsibility.

Affected

State councillor Song Ping outlined the dramatic changes to the delegates of the National People's Congress, many of whom will be directly affected by the overhaul.

Song said 14 organisations including ministries and commissions would be abolished and 10 new ones set up after the shake-up made necessary by nine years of economic reforms.

"The defects of the current government set-up have become conspicuous... non-separation of government and enterprises, irrational structure, overlapping institutions, overstaffing and low working efficiency," he said.

Stalin had the wives of his comrades held

MOSCOW, March 28. (UPI): Josef Stalin had the wives of Soviet President Mikhail Kalinin and Foreign Minister Vyacheslav Molotov arrested and packed off to Gulag prisons in the last years of his Machiavellian rule, a Soviet magazine said today.

Yet, both Kalinin and Molotov continued to serve Stalin loyally, while Yekaterina Kalinin languished for 10 years in prison as an enemy of the people and Paulina Molotov spent nearly five years in the camps, the monthly Ogonek magazine said.

Arrest

In further terror against his own politburo, Stalin had the brother of his loyal henchman Lazar Kaganovich executed, and tried to arrest the wife of Marshal Klementi Voroshilov, the April Ogonek said in continuing to fill in what Mikhail Gorbachev has called the "blank spots" of Soviet history.

Molotov, who voted for his wife's arrest at a Politburo meeting in 1949, never mentioned her again and had to wait until after Stalin's death in March 1953 to be reunited with her, Ogonek said.

"Molotov's daughter, when

applying for party membership answered the question about her parents that her father is Molotov and she does not have a mother," the magazine said.

"But Kalinin (the state president) never stopped appealing for his wife's release," it said. "It was terrible to hear how often Kalinin asked Stalin to have mercy for his wife, to free his 'friend of life,' to give him a chance to be with her before his death."

"Stalin got so sick and tired of the pleas that he promised to release her after the World War II was over," the magazine said. Stalin kept his word, freeing Kalinin's wife a month after the end of the war, but then gave her a "dog's passport," barring her from living in Moscow and 270 other Soviet cities, it said.

Kalinin, a former peasant and by then old and dying, was forced to take a train to visit his wife, whose Estonian nationality had apparently aroused Stalin's paranoia.

By 1946, Kalinin was dead, and his wife who had vowed never to come to the Kremlin in Moscow again walked alongside "Stalin's entourage" behind her husband's body, Ogonek said. It printed a picture of the scene.

4 killed in S. African raid on Botswana

GABORONE, March 28. (Reuters): South Africa carried out an attack in the capital of neighbouring Botswana early today, killing at least four people in a fire-bombed house.

Responsibility for the raid was claimed by military headquarters in Pretoria, which said four "terrorists" of the banned African National Congress (ANC) were killed.

No further details were given of the attack, which came after several weeks of rising tension between Pretoria and the black-ruled frontline states to the north.

Eyewitnesses said the raiders attacked at around 1 am and used machine guns and petrol to firebomb a four-bedroomed house in the suburb of Phiring, in the northern part of the capital, just 10 km (six miles) from the South African border.

Ruins

After touring the ruins, Presidential Affairs Minister Ponsatsho Kedikile said the bodies recovered were so badly charred that it was not certain if four or five people had died. He said some of them were Botswana citizens.

The last raid acknowledged by South Africa was on an alleged ANC weapons dump in the Zam-

bian border town of Livingsstone in April last year, when five people were killed.

A military spokesman in Pretoria said today's raid followed a clash last Friday with black ANC guerrillas at a farm near the Botswana border.

Three men were killed in the clash and a quantity of arms seized, including automatic rifles, pistols and hand grenades.

Warned

After a rocket attack on a South African farm near the border with Zimbabwe last month, South African Defence Minister Magnus Malan warned that his troops would not hesitate to pursue guerrillas into neighbouring countries.

Foreign Minister Pik Botha said at the time that ANC guerrillas used neighbouring Botswana and Zimbabwe as infiltration routes into South Africa.

Both countries have repeatedly denied harbouring ANC guerrillas, who are fighting an armed struggle against white rule in South Africa.

Botswana, which is almost totally dependent economically on South Africa, has angered Pretoria by resisting pressure to sign a security pact.

China announces major shake-up

Unprecedented display of opposition in Congress

BEIJING, March 28. (Agencies): In an unprecedented display of political opposition, delegates to China's Parliament today assailed the Communist Party leadership's failure to heed their views and blocked unanimous approval of several resolutions.

Ripples of surprise and consternation swept through the nearly 3,000 delegates gathered in the huge auditorium at the Great Hall of the People as delegates for the first time made use of their rights to speak on proposed motions, according to witnesses.

The extraordinary show of defiance erupted on the floor of the National Peoples Congress (NPC), the country's nominal legislature, which opened its annual session last Friday.

Long a rubber stamp Parliament, the NPC has gained a measure of actual power in recent years but has rarely hucked proposals put before it by

the Communist Party leadership, referring to show a united public front.

The open opposition, apparently sanctioned by party leaders, follows high-level calls for freer debate and greater openness in the Chinese government's secretive working as senior officials seek support for advancing their economic and political reforms.

The debate began when Peng Chong, executive chairman of the NPC Presidium, called a vote on establishing seven special committees to deal with official affairs between yearly NPC meetings.

For the first time, several delegates took advantage of the statutory call to speak and stood up to attack the government for its failure to consider some of their suggestions.

One blasted a decision to elect an 89-year-old scientist to head the education, science, culture and public health committee,

bluntly declaring the man "is too old."

Meanwhile the government announced a major shake-up of its administration to combat overmanning, poor efficiency and duplication of responsibility.

Affected

State councillor Song Ping outlined the dramatic changes to the delegates of the National People's Congress, many of whom will be directly affected by the overhaul.

Song said 14 organisations including ministries and commissions would be abolished and 10 new ones set up after the shake-up made necessary by nine years of economic reforms.

"The defects of the current government set-up have become conspicuous... non-separation of government and enterprises, irrational structure, overlapping institutions, overstaffing and low working efficiency," he said.

Bombay airport attack

New group claims responsibility

BEIRUT, March 28. (Reuters): A previously unknown group claimed responsibility in Beirut today for a pistol and hand grenade attack at Bombay airport last Friday.

"We claim responsibility for the attack launched against a group of Zionist pilots working at the Italian airlines (Alitalia)," said a statement by the "Organisation of Arab Fedayeen cells".

An Arabic-speaking man who gave his name as Abbas Mohammad Ali Shahadi shot and seriously wounded Vittorio Santaniello, an Alitalia pilot,

aboard an airport bus.

Bombay police said the gun jammed after three or four shots and Shahadi jumped off the bus. He tossed two grenades, which failed to explode, at two off-duty policemen who chased and caught him.

Chase

The Italian embassy in New Delhi said police had been unable to discover the gunman's nationality or motive. Police said he had only given them his name and no identity papers were found on him.

"The attack was in retaliation

for the frantic campaign waged by the Zionists and imperialists against the Arab nation," the statement delivered today said.

"We will chase the Zionists and their allies. We warn the Italian government against submitting to the Zionist and American will, otherwise they will harm the interests of the friendly Italian people," it added.

The typewritten Arabic message was sent to an international news agency through a courier service in West Beirut. It was dated March 26.

Minister holds talks with Kuwaiti leaders

Sudan renews call for immediate end to Gulf war

THE Sudanese Minister of Social Welfare, Mrs Rashida Ibrahim Abdul Karim, renewed her country's call for an immediate end to the Iraq-Iran war and the implementation of the Security Council resolution 598.

Talking to Kuna yesterday the minister said that Sudan took part in the Amman Arab summit last November and agreed to its resolutions condemning Iran for continuing the war and supporting Iraq in the conflict.

In the meantime, she said, Sudan will continue to take part in efforts and mediations aimed at ending the eight-year-old conflict. The Sudanese premier visited Tehran and Baghdad last year in an attempt to mediate end the war.

Support

The minister made the statement following talks with the acting Premier and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmed. The talks were attended by the Minister of Social Affairs and Labour Sheikh Nasser Mohammed Al Ahmed, the

Ministry's Undersecretary Mrs Latifa Al Rujab and the Sudanese Ambassador here Mr Mohammad Al Amin Abdalla.

The visiting minister also held separate talks with Sheikh Nasser in the presence of the ministry undersecretary Issa Yassin and senior officials.

Minister Rashida said she was delighted for meeting with HH the Amir and she affirmed Sudan's support for Kuwait against any external threats.

Exploited

She added that she had explained to the Amir, dangers confronted by the Sudan from the Marxists and preaching parties and she revealed a Zionist plot that had exploited events in that African Arab country to create chaos on the internal front.

The minister said that Sudan's relations with Ethiopia had witnessed a rapprochement especially following the recent escalation in the insurgent war waged by John Garang and the occupation of some Sudanese towns.

She went on to say that this improvement in the relations followed a meeting by the Sudanese Premier Sadik Al Mahdi and the Ethiopian leader Mengistu Haile Maryam in Djibouti last week where they had agreed that the war in the south is becoming meaningless and it had drained the resources of the two countries.

Commission

She added that the two leaders also agreed on the formation of a joint commission which will meet in Addis Ababa shortly to draft an agreement, redefining bilateral relations and the basis for a dialogue to solve the conflict in the north peacefully.

The minister also expressed her country's support for Saudi Arabia in the wake of Israeli threats to strike at medium range Chinese missiles brought by Riyadh recently and said "we denounced these threats and stand by our Saudi brethren. Our Arab belonging makes it a must for us to adhere to our Arab identity as well as to our Arab League's conventions."



HH the Amir with Dr Mohammed Al Habib (centre) and Khalid Al Jassar (left).

Iraq capable of throwing Iran out

A SENIOR Iraqi official has asserted that Iran will not be able to "maintain" one span of Iraqi territory and that the Iraqi forces are capable of scoring victories on all war fronts.

In an interview with a Kuwaiti newspaper published yesterday, member of Baath party's regional leadership and member of the Revolutionary Command Council, Hassan Ali, said that war is "attack and retreat," indicating that "either of the two belligerents can control a border position, here or there."

Credibility

He emphasised the capability of the Iraqi Army of clearing Iraqi territories from Iranian aggressions.

On the war of cities, Ali said that this war was ignited by the Iranian side.

He said a comprehensive solution to the Gulf conflict is

embodied in the implementation of Security Council resolution 598, adding that the resolution is indivisible.

Hesitation in executing the resolution has shaken credibility of the UN, he said, pointing out that Iraq has announced, since the adoption of the resolution by the Security Council, its acceptance to the international community's will, the Iraqi official noted.

He said Iran flared the war of cities to avert the international organisation's attention from pursuing the second phase of the resolution and imposing sanctions on it (Iran).

Ali said his country is currently engaged in preparing for an international peace conference, regarding the role of the international public opinion in finding a drive to implement Security Council resolution 598.

Kohl sends message to Amir

WEST German Chancellor Helmut Kohl has sent a message to HH the Amir of Kuwait, the contents of which were not immediately known.

The message was delivered to acting Premier and Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmed yesterday by the West German Ambassador to Kuwait, Bernd Wulffen when the latter called on the Premier and exchanged views with him about the developments in the region and bilateral relations between the two countries.

Later the acting Premier and Foreign Minister received finance Minister Jasssem Al Khorafi and Health Minister Dr Abdul Razzaq Yousuf Al Abdul Razzaq and discussed with them matters of national importance.

Kuwait-Soviet photo exhibition

MOSCOW, March 28, (Kuna): The Kuwaiti-Soviet photo exhibition, depicting life patterns in both countries, was inaugurated here today.

Through a collection of photographs, land marks in Kuwait and the Soviet Union can be seen.

A Kuwaiti photographer exhibits a number of photographs taken in the Soviet Union, while a Soviet photographer exhibits what he saw in Kuwait.

The exhibition is held to mark the 25th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Kuwait and the Soviet Union.



Kuwait's Social Affairs and Labour Minister, Sheikh Nasser Mohammed Al Ahmed with the Sudanese minister (left).

Car owners demand freedom to change insurance companies

A LOCAL newspaper held a survey recently about motor insurance. Most car owners demand the freedom to change insurance companies whenever they choose and suggested that insurance companies should open more branches in order to speed up administration.

In contrast, the insurance companies argued that changing companies causes confusion and said that they are not prepared to accept more losses. They added that it was advantageous to the customer to remain with the same company.

Congestion

The director of the Technical Inspection Department at the Traffic Department, Major Issa Bou Rahma said that he felt it would be a mistake to restrict drivers to just one company.

Driver Abdullah Mohammed Al Baghi said that car owners must have the freedom to change insurance companies if they felt that they would get better service or benefits. He was supported by Ahmad Hassan who said that

freedom of choice would lead to more competition between insurance companies and thus improve their services.

Habib Al Muhana said that closing insurance companies on the weekends meant more congestion on other days. He said that the Commerce Ministry should force insurance companies to settle claims promptly and also appoint ministry inspectors to look into disputed claims.

Premiums

Abdullah Al Jarallah, chairman of the Warba Insurance Company said that he felt it was in the customer's interests to stick to one company. He said because of the high accident rate in Kuwait, insurance companies had agreed among themselves to distribute losses and risks and also to ease administration.

He maintained that Warba's

four branches enabled them to deal with customers all over the country and pointed out that sub-insurance company offices only offer Third Party insurance and do not deal in fire, theft or life policies. He claimed that premiums in Kuwait are lower than those in most other countries but that the companies face high costs in paying for compensation, blood money and car damages.

Major Issa of the Traffic Department concluded by saying that the insurance companies should be able to distinguish between good drivers and reckless ones and charge premiums accordingly. Young drivers, or those with poor driving records should pay higher rates. They should also take account of the type of car, sports cars should have higher premiums than family models.

Governor meets envoy to Iraq

THE governor of the Kuwait City, Sheikh Jaber Al Abdullah Al Jaber Al Sabah yesterday received Kuwait's Ambassador to Iraq, Ibrahim Al Bahwah.

The meeting was held on the occasion of Al Bahwah's departure for Baghdad to take up his assignment as Kuwait's envoy to that country.

During the meeting the two officials exchanged views on bilateral relations between the two neighbouring Arab countries.

Ban on fishing shrimps

BOARD chairman of the Agriculture Affairs and Fish Resources Authority, Sheikh Ibrahim Duaij Al Sabah issued a decision yesterday banning fishing shrimps in territorial waters as of April 16 until the end of next August.

The decision banned as well marketing of shrimps in local markets during the said period and urged for cooperation between the country's concerned parties to implement the decision.

Outcome of Islamic foreign ministers conference hailed

KUWAITI Charge d'Affaires in Amman Fadel Salem Bu Gheith was quoted yesterday as hailing the outcome on the Islamic foreign ministers conference held there last week.

Bu Gheith told Seyassah that the outcome of the conference fell in line with spirit of the Kuwaiti Islamic summit conference last year in which political efforts centred on the need to stop the Gulf war and to find a comprehensive and just solution for the Palestinian question.

The Kuwaiti diplomat also hailed the Jordanian methods in organising the conference as it provided the conference a practical atmosphere through which

various committees were able to discuss the agenda issues and pass resolutions on means of confronting challenges.

The conference expressed full solidarity with the Palestinian popular uprising in the occupied territories, as well as with Saudi Arabia in face of Israeli threats, he added.

Regarding the upcoming two-day meeting of the heads of the Organisation of Islamic Conference committees, which is due to begin in Kuwait on April 10 Bu Gheith said that it will help in implementing the foreign ministers conference resolutions.

Seminar on traffic and road accidents

UNDER the auspices of HH the Crown Prince and Prime Minister, Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah a seminar on traffic and road accidents will be held from April 4 to 6. The Interior Minister, Sheikh Salem Al Sabah will attend the seminar.

Over the three days of the seminar, lectures are to be delivered at morning and evening meetings.

Minister of Information Sheikh Jaber Mubarak Al Sabah will preside over the first meeting of the seminar which will be devoted to information and its impact on traffic awareness.

Meanwhile, Captain Nasser Ahmed Al Radhan from the public relations department at the Interior Ministry delivered a lecture yesterday on traffic within the framework of the unified traffic week for the Gulf Cooperation Council.

Captain Nasser, who lectured at Al Loula Kindergarten in Suleikhat spoke about traffic problems and their causes and social, economic and health results.

First Lieutenant Mohammed Sultan Al Zoubi delivered another lecture at Umm Al Haiman girls intermediate school on the causes of road accidents and how to avoid them.

Dali stops over in Kuwait

DEMOCRATIC Yemen's Foreign Minister Dr Abdul Aziz Al Dali yesterday arrived here for a few hours stopover on his way back home.

Upon arrival, Al Dali was received by Najib Abdallah Al Baghi from the protocol department at the Foreign Ministry and the Democratic Yemen's Ambassador to Kuwait Awad Salem Bayabad.

Spanish envoy

MINISTER of State for Foreign Affairs Saoud Mohammad Al Osaime yesterday received the Spanish ambassador to Kuwait.

Bilateral relations and other issues of mutual concern were discussed in the meeting.

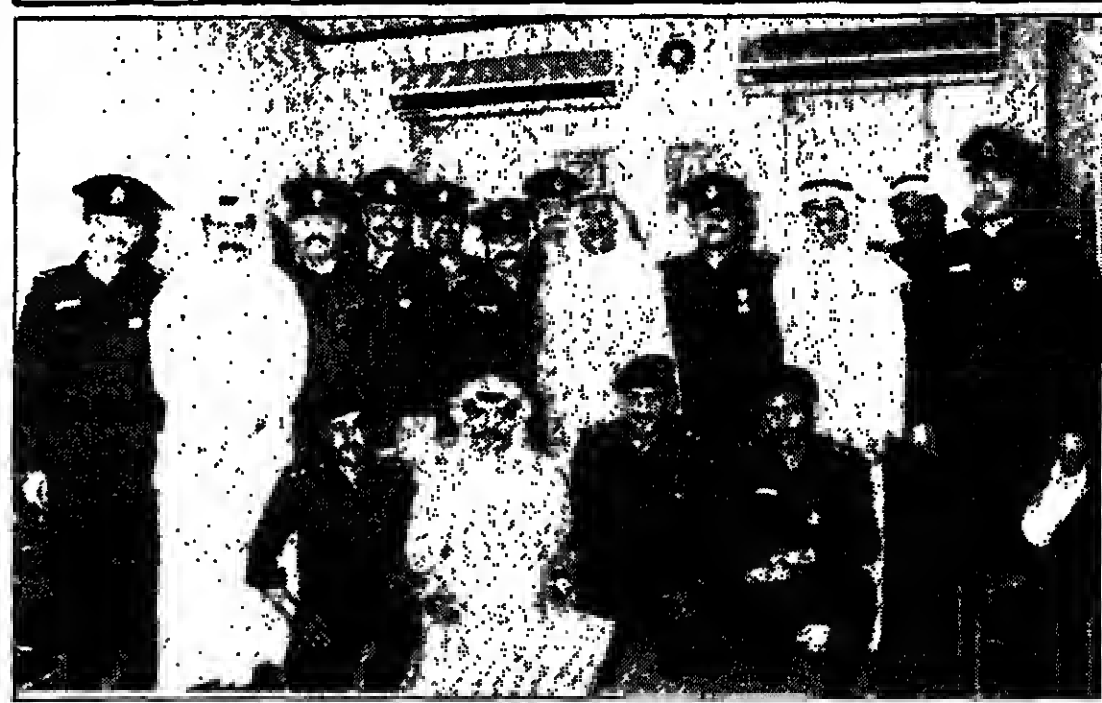
Nomination of military personnel banned

A SENIOR official at the Social Affairs and Labour Ministry yesterday said that the ban on nomination of military personnel for membership of cooperative societies board of directors has been enforced so far in two cooperative societies.

The two cooperative societies are Jaleeb Al Shuyookh and animal wealth.

Social Affairs and Labour Assistant Undersecretary for cooperative affairs Abdul Rahman Al Hwail added in a statement to a Kuwaiti newspaper that the cooperative law allows women to nominate themselves for membership in the cooperatives' board directors.

Hwail pointed out that the ban on military personnel was at the request of the Defence and the Interior Ministries.



● A group of officers and non-commissioned officers received medals, awarded by HH the Amir, from Director General of Investigations Department, Colonel Yacoub Al Muhaidi. The award winners are pictured with officials after the prize-giving ceremony.

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New KJA office bearers meet ministers

No place for journalists who do not care for Kuwait

THE ministers of defence and interior stressed the importance of the press and its role in helping safeguard the country's security and unity.

The ministers were talking to the new office bearers of the Kuwaiti Journalists Association who met them separately yesterday.

Achievement

The Minister of Defence Sheikh Nawaf Al Ahmed pointed out the interest given to the press by HH the Amir and HH the Crown Prince and Premier and said Kuwait is proud of the advanced level enjoyed by the local press.

The ministers said the press is a big achievement which should be preserved and he called for foiling attempts by some newsmen who never wished good to Kuwait and its people.

He appealed to the sincere journalists to fight the bad ones who cause damage to the reputation of the Kuwaiti press.

He said that the government had "cleansed" the press from those who were considered persona non grata and would continue to support the sincere and efficient who care for the good of the country "but the inefficient and those who do not care for the interest of Kuwait must go back to where they had come from."

The Minister of Interior Sheikh Salem Sabah Al Salem emphasised the importance of self-control in the daily running of newspaper business and appealed to the newsmen to be accurate and objective while reporting events.

Coasts

He also urged newsmen to inform the ministry of any illegal practices or indiscretions actions and violation of traffic rules.

The two ministers, however, promised to cooperate with the newsmen and facilitate their work as much as possible.

Sheikh Nawaf said that there is a plan to safeguard Kuwait's coasts.

He added that the plan is currently on the agenda of the Supreme Security Committee and will be decided on, after a thorough study by Ministries of Defence and Interior and the National Guards and competent government authorities.

On the association's proposal that Kuwaiti journalists accompany ministry officials during their visits, he said that some of these visits relate to security issues and must be kept secret, but promised that the ministry will look into the matter in the future.

Malaysian minister seeks to boost ties

MINISTER of State for Cabinet Affairs, Rashed Abdul Aziz Al Rashed yesterday met with visiting Malaysian Minister of Culture and Tourism, Sabbaruddin Chik.

Discussions at the meeting dealt with bilateral relations and ways of consolidating cultural cooperation between the two countries.

The meeting was attended by acting secretary-general of the National Council for Culture, Arts and Letters, Wafa Al Sana.

Rashed also met with Moroccan Ambassador to Kuwait Abdul Wahed Bin Masoud, Tunisian Ambassador Habib Al Ka'hashi the Spanish Ambassador Juan Jose and the Ambassador of Pakistan, Zahed Saeed.

He also received the head of the consular studies and research apparatus at the Amiri Diwan, Dr Salem Al Tehaihi.

Indian embassy

THE Embassy of India in Kuwait has announced that the embassy will be closed on March 31 on account of Mahavir Jayanti.

Higher council discusses civil aviation policy

THE Higher Council for Civil Aviation convened yesterday to discuss a number of issues relating to the civil aviation policy in Kuwait.

An official source said the council's meeting, headed by Minister of State for Services Affairs Issa Mohammed Al Mazidi had discussed the topics on agenda, topped by ticket fares.

The source added that a number of issues relating to the policy of civil aviation and means of elevating the standard of operation in different departments of Kuwait International Airport were tackled at the meeting.

Preparations for the summer season were also discussed, the source said.

Preparations for Arab justice ministers meeting

AN assistant undersecretary at the Justice and Legal Affairs Ministry, Nasser Al Roumi, has stressed the importance of the sixth session of the Council of Arab Justice Ministers to be held under the patronage of HH the Amir from April 2 to 5.

He told a press conference that the meeting was important



The chairman and members of the Kuwait Journalists Association were received yesterday by the Interior Minister, Sheikh Salem.

Vranitzky arrives to a red carpet welcome in Saudi Arabia

RIYADH, March 28, (AP): Austrian Chancellor Franz Vranitzky arrived today to a red carpet welcome from a long line of dignitaries led by Crown Prince Abdullah of Saudi Arabia.

Vranitzky is on a four-day official visit, designed to bolster cooperation between the two countries in the political and economic fields.

In an interview published today in the Saudi newspaper Okaz, Vranitzky said his talks in the kingdom will deal with prominent political issues led by the protracted Iraq-Iran war and the projected international conference for Middle East peace, as well as the Palestinian problem.

Praised

Vranitzky also praised Saudi Arabia's role in current regional and international affairs, and said King Fahd's "wise leadership" was instrumental in easing tension in trouble spots.

The chancellor, disclosing that he planned consecutive tours to various Arab capitals, said his country sought bolstering of relations with the Arab world in continuation of its "traditional support" for Arab causes.

Text of the interview conducted in Vienna ahead of the visit was published in Arabic.

Austrian Interior Minister

Karl Blecha, on a visit to the Gulf early January, had repeated an Austrian offer to host the international conference on the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Warm ties between Vienna and the Arab world were fostered by former Austrian Chancellor Bruno Kreisky because of his pro-Arab policies. Kreisky paid two official visits to Saudi Arabia in 1980 and 1981.

The Saudi Crown Prince visited Austria in 1985.

Saudi Arabia is expected to renew an invitation to Austrian President Kurt Waldheim to visit the kingdom during the chancellor's visit, diplomatic sources said.

The campaign against Waldheim for his alleged involvement in Nazi war crimes has been widely criticised by the Arab press, including Saudi Arabian media.

Trade

Waldheim is expected to visit Kuwait in June and may also visit neighbouring Saudi Arabia, the sources said.

Vranitzky will conclude his talks at a meeting with King Fahd on Wednesday. He will then leave for a private stay at the Red Sea port city of Jeddah.

Talking about bilateral ties in the interview with Okaz, Vranitzky

attributed a decline in trade dealings to the world economic recession but hoped this would dissipate soon.

He noted that Saudi Arabia was Austria's third non-European trade partner after the United States and Japan, and that 25,000 Saudi tourists visited Vienna last year, 20 per cent more than the 1986 figure.

Trade figures show that Austrian exports to Saudi Arabia declined by 50 per cent last year, but there are more than 20 Austrian companies operating in the kingdom.

Flight

The value of Saudi imports from Austria in 1987 amounted to \$125 million against 220 million in 1986, while exports totalled 42 million in 1987 compared to 66.5 million the year before, the Austria press agency reported on the occasion of the visit.

During his stay, the former banker and finance minister, will be signing an agreement setting up a Saudi-Austrian joint economic commission, and the plane which flew him marked the inauguration of the direct Riyadh-Vienna flight.

Vranitzky, 50, is accompanied by his wife Christine, Finance Minister Ferdinand Lacina.

King Fahd receives messages

RIYADH, March 28, (Kuna): Saudi Monarch King Fahd Bin Abdul Aziz has received a verbal message from Moroccan King Hassan II.

The message was delivered last night by Moroccan Parliament Speaker Ahmed Othman, who arrived here yesterday on a few days visit to Saudi Arabia.

King Fahd has also received a verbal message from Tunisian President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, the Saudi Press Agency reported.

The agency did not disclose the contents of the message, which was delivered last night by the Tunisian Ambassador here.

World's smallest Quran

BELGRADE, March 28, (Reuters): A Yugoslav family, disputing rival claims in Iran and Poland, says it owns the world's smallest copy of the Holy Quran. Tanjug news agency reported today.

Ehram Durmisi, from Medulin on the Adriatic coast, has a copy measuring 2.5 by 1.5 cm (0.97 by 0.58 inches) which his grandfather bought 70 years ago, Tanjug said.

It said his family made the claim after hearing of two other copies of Qurans both claiming to be the world's smallest. One edition in Poland measured three by two cm (1.17 by 0.78 inches) and another in Iran 2.7 by 1.7 cm (1.05 by 0.66 inches).

More mobile telephones soon

THE chairman of the Mobile Telephone Company, Abdullah Al Sabeh, said yesterday that the company would soon be in a position to supply all applicants with mobile telephones.

He said the telephone sets would be different in design and features from those currently in use.

He said that about 15,000 telephones were in use at present, and the company would soon be able to provide 4,000 lines annually.



● Kuwait's Electricity and Water Minister, Dr Homoud Al Rqobah, visited the Doha water distribution centre on Saturday. Picture shows Dr Al Rqobah listening to an engineer explaining how a control panel works.

Engineers team for Iraq

A DELEGATION from Kuwait's Engineers Society yesterday left for Iraq to attend the meetings of the higher council of Arab Engineers Union due to convene there March 29 to April 1.

The delegation will also participate in the silver jubilee of the Arab Engineers union April 1 to 4.

Death rate from road accidents falls

THOUGH accident rates are still high in Kuwait the number of people dying on the roads has reduced considerably, according to Sabah Al Rayes, chairman of the Safety Society.

Al Rayes, addressing the delegates taking part in the GCC Traffic Week, said yesterday that the death rate from accidents fell to 299 last year. In 1982, 519 deaths occurred in road accidents, causing material damages estimated at KD 116 million.

The seminar, held at the society's premises, was attended by Major General Yusuf Al Saad, Dr Nabeel Abdurrahman, Dr Mahmoud Bustan and a number of delegates from GCC states.

Minimise

Al Rayes outlining the objectives of the society said their goal was to compile data on traffic accidents to enable authorities to study causes and effects. "Our aim is to minimise the number of accidents and reduce the mortality rate from such incidents," Al Rayes said.

The society organises seminars, lectures and information campaigns to create awareness about the dangers of wreckless

driving. Pamphlets and posters are also distributed by them.

Commenting on cooperation between GCC states, Al Rayes, said: "It is necessary to exchange information and expertise in traffic matters," he said, adding that regular traffic weeks held by GCC states would enhance cooperation.

Motorist killed

A MOTORIST was killed instantly yesterday when his car collided with another car and overturned.

There were 16 traffic accidents in Kuwait, with five taking place in the capital, six in Ahmadi and five in Jahra.

Meanwhile, delegations from GCC traffic departments which are in Kuwait for the GCC Joint Traffic Week, will today visit the Surra Kindergarten.

They will also visit the Interior Ministry's Computer Centre and the Criminal Investigation Department.

Egyptian envoy

MINISTER of Public Works, Abdul Rahman Al Houry yesterday received the Egyptian Ambassador to Kuwait, Saeed Rifaat.

Ways of promoting bilateral cooperation were the topic of discussion between the two men.

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● Pope John Paul II is seen receiving the credentials of Kuwait's Ambassador to the Vatican, Dr Tareq Al Razooki (left).

KPTC plans new routes

THE Kuwait Public Transport Company has plans to introduce two new routes this year to the industrial area with Fahadheel, Ahmadi and another route linking Jleeb Al Shiyookh with Farwaniya, Khaitan, Hawalli and Al Salmiya areas.

KPTC's director of operations Khaled Al Jassar said plans are afoot to launch an inter-country link between Kuwait and Jordan, and Kuwait and Egypt.

Two new routes were recently introduced to link the city with Sulaybiya Agricultural Area and Jahra areas.

At present the company plies buses on 54 routes in Kuwait, covering 90 per cent of the area.

Special buses are run to provide transport to employees of several ministries, including the Education, Defence, Interior and Health. Transport is also provided for some private schools and the Public Authority for Applied Education.

The company is now renting out mini-buses with drivers for short trips inside or outside Kuwait.

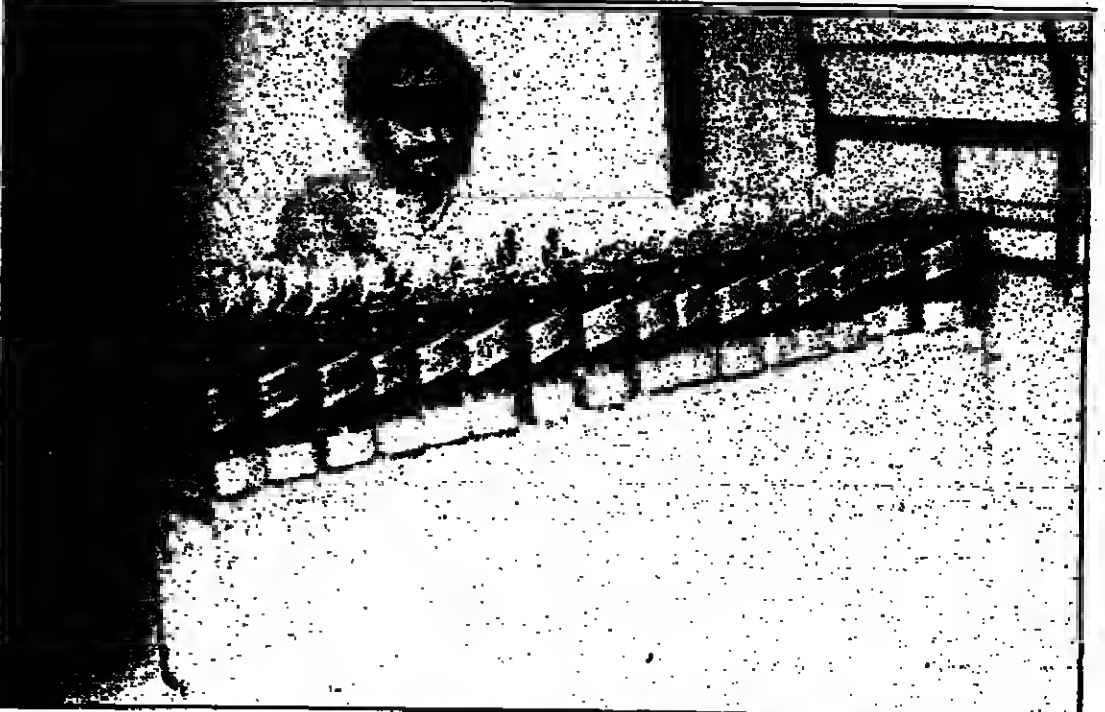
Bus stations were opened in Messilah, Fahadheel, Jabriya, Jleeb Al Shiyookh, Salmiya, Khaitan and other regions. Jassar said the bus stations were provided with all facilities like cafeterias and toilets for the convenience of passengers.

Studies on two new departments

DEAN of the Faculty of Letters Dr Khaldoun Al Naqub yesterday said the faculty had conducted studies on initiating two new departments for journalism and information management and libraries.

The Journalism Department, he said, is hoped to be opened no later than the beginning of the next academic year.

Al Naqub disclosed the plan for establishing the new departments in an address at the graduation ceremony of 635 students who completed their studies at the Faculty of Letters in 1987.



● CID men of Ahmadi Governorate arrested a Kuwaiti on a charge of trading in liquor. The detectives seized four cartons of whiskey and KD5,000 from his house. He confessed he was selling a 12-bottle carton for KD250 and said he got the liquor from another Kuwaiti. The man is pictured above with the liquor.

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Pakistani artist holds show at Sultan Gallery

Shades of emotional creativity

By Fathima Ahmed

THERE is a juxtaposition of emotions in the paintings of Pakistani artist Yasmeen Bhamia. Her paintings evoke mixed feelings of serenity and disruption; of elation and dejection.

Yasmeen is holding her first solo show called "Exploration of Space" at the Sultan Gallery. It was opened yesterday in the presence of Pakistan's Ambassador to Kuwait Zahid Saeed.

The varied emotions are represented through figures — distorted faces, bloated hands; enlarged feet and heavy, rough textured strokes, separated by abrupt dark, black lines, seemingly alienating the artist from her objective self. Yasmeen's paintings are subjective — relying on the environment she paints. Obviously the aridity of the desert inhibits the artist, who looks for aesthetic beauty in the environment and reverts to dull grays, contrasting it with blues, browns and sunset hues to create movement and activity in her works.

Standing by the aisle in the studio in her Daiya home, Yasmeen looks serene, but contemplative and apologetic, as she explains: "If my paintings seem a bit harsh, and at times, timid, they have been inspired by the desert."

Allen

The harshness is implied rather than explicit. The timidity, it seems lies in her attempt to capture an alien atmosphere. For the artist it was a challenge to absorb the "vastness of space — a plain, beautiful and empty space."

She set out to portray an artist's creativity "by the feeling of movement and activity within the space."

The desert gave the artist new insights. "I learnt to look at things from varying perspectives," she says, not finishing her sentence as she recalls her frequent trips to the desert with Najat Sultan of the gallery.

"I had to see, smell and feel the place before I could get down to painting," she said. The vast desert expanse seemed "the artist's canvas."

She explains: "To an artist space is not a void. It is genuine matter; and with the help of the brush and colours it becomes reality."

Yasmeen's series on the



Yasmeen Bhamia pictured with some of her paintings.



The Nomads, one of the paintings on exhibit.

desert — and the city of Kuwait, show the artist's empathetic attitude. One painting, perhaps, represents the view of an amazed outsider observing a series of objects that at once fascinate and disturb him. Ordinary people

ing through collages that seem rather dull at first. But from a closer range they bubble with activity. For instance, one painting shows a cluttered view of the coast — perhaps the

Arabian Gulf Street — showing the coastline littered untidily with dhows, pots and pans; in the backdrop of an azure sea, a pair of palm trees planted in a corner under the clear silhouette of the outline of the Seif Palace.

The essence of a composition "fill the space," she

Once the space is filled with objects, she splashes colour but not lavishly. Yasmeen restricts the use of colours. She uses black profusely, contrasting it sharply with desert colours —

yellows, browns, beiges, oranges and other shades. Thick, black, straight lines break the line of thought conveyed by the artist in her neo-realistic paintings.

Colours are used symbolically. White represents tranquility, black implies boldness, "a breaking away from traditional form, and blue — well represent the blues.

The shapeless figures of men, women and animals depicted in her works are, once again, symbols through which the artist depicts a plethora of emotions.

"Figures are not direct representations. They are symbolic means to convey thoughts," she explains. Her paintings resemble graphic art — but done in oil colours on huge canvases.

Her style was derived from years of experience in graphic art. And like graphic, she relies on neat blocks and geometrical shapes to convey ideas.

Yasmeen started her career in 1967 after graduating from the College of Arts and Crafts, University of Dhaka. For a year, she worked as a research assistant at the same college under Zainal Abedin, Saifuddin Ahmed and M. Kibria.

Those "were years of experimenting," she recalls. She made lithographs, etchings and wood cuts.

In 1969, Yasmeen exhibited her paintings for the first time in Pakistan. They were shown at group exhibitions. Yet, it was not easy for the artist to "keep up with art."

Artists had to work hard to supplement their income. So, she joined an advertising agency as a "visual artist" and taught painting at a school and later at the American Centre in Cairo.

Though she has exhibited her work in Hong Kong, at the Festival of Arts in Cairo, Karachi and other places, she feels that "showing your work is not important."

"To me, it is important to be in close contact with my work. I like to play with ideas, innovate and create paintings that give me immense satisfaction," she explains.

Yasmeen has kept in touch with her first love — graphic art and prints. A collection of graphics Yasmeen exhibited in Cairo, at a show organised by Kunooz are exquisite works of art. They now lie hidden beneath huge canvases that Yasmeen has made especially for the Kuwait exhibition.

By choice she began dabbling in oils. Eventually, she'll go back to her prints and lithographs. For now she is concentrating on Kuwait.

"The paintings on Kuwait give a three-dimensional view of the desert and the sea — and through them I see the varying moods of people living here," she said.

Just as there is "no beginning" and "no end" to the desert space, so also there is no start or finish to the burst of emotions evoked by Yasmeen's paintings.

TELEVISION PROGRAMMES

KTV 1

- 2.15 Holy Quran
- 2.30 World News via Satellite
- 3.35 Ihtal Al Mu'laah: cartoon serial
- 4.00 News Summary
- 4.05 Magazine D'Actualite
- 4.25 Wa'im'atassum: new daily serial, starring Tamah Al Tamimi, Siba Salem, Sami Qahtan, Hina Mohammad. Historical serial.
- 5.15 Agricultural Magazine: Yacoub Yusufi presents this local series.
- 6.00 Songs
- 7.00 News Summary
- 7.05 Afaq Al Fann: Art Horizon. Presented by Abdul Rasool Salman.
- 7.35 Animal World: documentary
- 8.00 Hadith Al Usbooh: religious talk by Sheikh Ali Al Jassar
- 8.15 Good Evening and Local News
- 9.00 News in Arabic

- 9.50 Pages from the History of Kuwait: prepared and presented by Saif Marzouk Al Shamlan.
- 10.50 Layali Al Hilmiya: Arabic serial, starring Yahya Fakhrani, Firdous Abdul Hamid, Huda Sultan, Hussein Yusuf.
- 11.40 News Summary
- 11.45 World News via Satellite
- 12.15 Holy Quran/Closedown

KTV 2

- 4.15 Holy Quran
- 4.35 Football: Al Kazema vs Al Finga'a (Oman).
- 6.10 Rainbow Brite: cartoon serial
- 6.30 Punkey Brewster: Punkey and Cherry join a girl's club...
- 7.00 Beyond 2000: a look at latest advances in science and technology. Tonight, reports on an energy saving device for

- sportsmen: photographer; home videos and new tunnel building methods.
- 8.00 News in English
- 8.40 You and the Law: a local programme
- 8.50 Heart of the City: another action-packed episode about Detective Kennedy's adventure.
- 9.30 Omni: The New Frontier: hosted by Peter Ustinov
- 10.00 Mary: a light-hearted look at a female journalist's life and work.
- 10.30 Made-for-TV Movie: "A Different Affair..." Giving advice on radio seems easier to a female psychiatrist after she takes custody of a young child.
- 12.00 News Summary/Magazine D'Actualite/Closedown

Please note that programmes and timings are liable to change without notice.

RADIO PROGRAMMES

English

- MORNING
- 08.00 Opening
- 08.02 Songs and Music
- 08.05 Thoughts in Islam
- 08.20 Songs and Music
- 08.30 NEWS
- 08.40 Songs and Music
- 08.45 Daily Programme
- 09.00 Songs and Music
- 09.30 They Sold A Million
- 10.00 Our Press Today
- 10.05 Songs and Music
- 11.00 Closedown
- 13.30 NEWS on FM Service

Urdu

- 1900 Opening
- 1910 Behereen Qaul
- 1920 Songs
- 1935 Press Report
- 1940 Radio Club
- 2000 News
- 2015 Aaj ka duniya
- 2030 Learning Arabic
- 2040 Jahan Numa
- 2100 Closedown

FM Services

- 0500 Easy Listening
- 0830 News
- 0840 Easy Listening
- 1000 Songs and Music
- 1330 News
- 1340 Easy Listening
- 1400 Classical Music
- 1600 Easy Listening
- 1700 Italian Hour
- 1800 Pops
- 2130 News
- 2145 Pops
- 2200 Indian Classical Hour
- 2300 Easy Listening
- 2400 Instrumental Listening

BBC World Services

- 0000 World News
- 09 News about Britain
- 15 Radio Newswelt
- 30 Best on Record.
- 0100 News Summary followed by Outlook
- 30 Short Story
- 45 The Unclaimed Promise (ex 29th)
- 0200 World News
- 09 Commentary
- 15 Network UK
- 0300 World News
- 09 News about Britain
- 15 The World Today
- 30 John Peel

CINEMA TODAY

Al Andalus
Carry on England
Starring: Kenneth Connors, Judy Geeson
Al Salmiya
Hot Spots
Starring: Timothy Dalton
Drive-In
Zaman Hatem Zahran (Arabic)
Starring: Noor Al Shariff, Razi Salahi Al Saadani
Al Firdous
Silsila (Hindi)
Starring: Amitabh Bachchan, Rekha
Fahad Open-Air
Kinara (Hindi)
Al Fahad
Commando Leopard

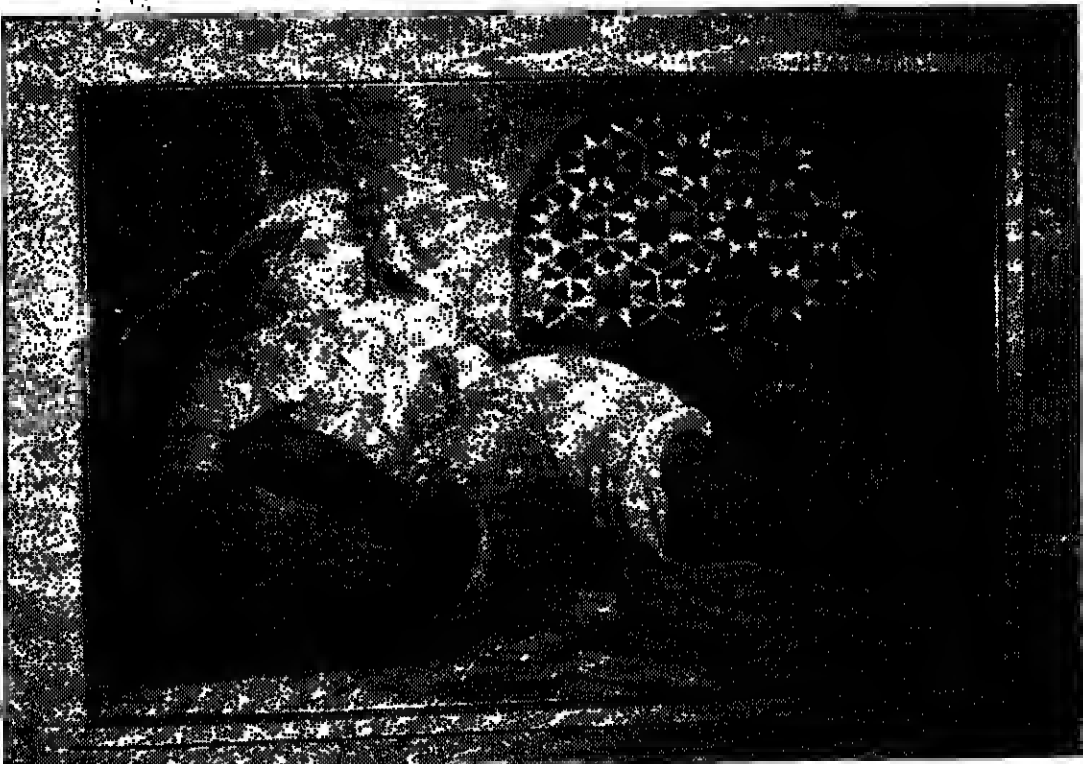
Al Jahra
Shuku Shanti (Bengali)
Granada
Irupatham Noottandu (Malayalam)
Al Jleeb
Shandana Daku (Bengali)
Ahmadi Drive-In
Shabab Fi Jabcem (Arabic).

PRAYERS

Fajr	4.20 am
Zuhr	11.53
Asr	3.23 pm
Maghreb	6.05
Isha	7.23

NIGHT CHEMIST

Kuwait
Al Istiglal Pharmacy
Safat Square
Al Muntasar Pharmacy
Ahmad Al Jaber St.
Hawalli and Nagra
Al Walced Pharmacy
Tunis St.
Salmiya and Rumeithiya
Al Fida Pharmacy
Ahmed Jarallah Bldg., Khansa St.
Fahad and Ahmadi
Abu Halifa Pharmacy
Coastal Road
Old Khaitan
Al Ahran Pharmacy
Block 2, Sulaiman Saleh Al Raheemani Bldg.
Jahra
Al Zahra Pharmacy
New Market



● An exhibition of paintings by a Kuwaiti artist Samiya Ahmed Omar opened on Sunday at the Free Ateller Gallery. A selection of paintings on Kuwait — old and new — and as seen by a native from the theme of the exhibition. Portraits, seascapes, landscapes and glimpses of the past are captured by the artist. The show was opened by Information Ministry's Undersecretary Abdul Aziz Jaafar. Above and right: two paintings shown at the exhibition.

WHAT'S ON

MUSIC

Upasana
Upasana presents a musical night — Ghanamanjari, featuring South Indian film songs, on April 7, 7.30 pm.
Geethanjali — featuring Hindi film songs — will be presented by the same group, 6.30 pm, on April 8.

Both programmes will be held at the Indian Arts Circle auditorium. Funfair. For reservations phone 5643643; 3987409.

SOCIAL

Salcette United
Whist Drive
Salcette United will hold a Whist Drive-cum-Tea Party for its members and guests on Friday, April 8, 3.30 pm at Ramada Al Salam Hotel. For details contact D'Costa 2439000 ext. 2537 and Agnello 2460983.

Inter-school

Knockout '88
Inter-school Knockout '88 Grand Finale takes place on Wednesday on April 13, at the Holiday Inn Hotel. The event features student and teacher teams from Kuwait's schools in a series of exciting games. Barbecue dinner and beverages will be served by the poolside. Valuable prizes. For details contact the hotel.

Book Show

An exhibition of English Language Teaching Books will be held from April 2 to 4 at the British Council, Mansouriya. It will be open from 9 am to 12.30 pm and 5 to 8 pm. The library will be closed on the evening of April 2 for the opening of the show.

Bangladesh Association

The association will hold a cultural programme, 6.30 pm, on March 31, Thursday, to mark the Independence and National Day of Bangladesh. All Bangladeshis are welcome. For details contact Hatem Ali Shah — 4710128; Nozammel — 2551312.

Canadian Women's League

There will be a meeting of the Canadian Women's League on Saturday, April 2, from 4 to 6 pm. For details phone 3718678.

Pakistan Youth Association

The association will hold a ceremony to celebrate Pakistan Day and Isra wa Meraj on April 1, at 7 pm, at the Kuwait Plaza Hotel. Entry by invitations only.

E.M.A.C. Tournament

A tennis tournament for under-16s will be held from April 13 to 16 at the SAS Hotel. Participating teams are from Abu Dhabi, Oman, Damascus, American School of Kuwait, Universal American School, Kuwait English School and New English School. The tournament has been organised by E.M.A.C. (Eastern Mediterranean Activities Conference).

Story Time

March 31, 10.30 am, is story time for children at the British Council library. Children of all nationalities, between the ages three and 6, are welcome.

Bowling Tournament

The Philippine Bowlers Association in Kuwait (PBAK) will hold their handicap bowling tournament from 9 am on April 8 at Club 300. The tournament is open to all men and women. Deadline for submitting entries is April 6. Fee: KD 4.500.

ARTS

Free Ateller

An exhibition of paintings by Samiya Ahmed Sayyed Omar is open daily from 8 am to 12 noon and 4 to 7 pm at the Free Ateller Gallery, Arabian Gulf St., near Amiri Hospital. It runs until April 7.

Ghadir Gallery

Egyptian artist Magdi Kenawy is showing his latest collection of lithographs and prints at the gallery in Salmiya Complex. The exhibition is open daily from 9 am to 12.30 pm and 4 to 8 pm, until March 31.

Sultan Gallery

An exhibition of oil paintings by Pakistani artist Yasmeen Bhamia is open daily from 9

am to 1 pm and 5 to 8 pm at the gallery, Al Soor St., from March 28. The exhibition continues until mid-April.

THEATRE

Stepping Out

Kuwait Players present the comedy "Stepping Out," directed by Ken Winston with choreography by Donna Smith, who also plays the lead, from April 10 to 14 at the Crystal Ballroom, Regency Palace Hotel. First night is gala night — dress black tie or lounge suit. Tickets — KD5 each (including buffet on gala night and snacks on other nights). For reservations ring 5331269; 5745838; 5383149.

Kuwait Players

Kuwait Players present "Wait Until Dark," a suspense drama by Frederick Knott, directed by Mike Conden, starring Jennifer Gatland and Derrick Hicks. It will be performed at the Universal American School, Salwa, at 8 pm nightly until March 31. For reservations phone 5657749; 5330934.



A scene from 'A Story Never Told by Sheherazad'

UAE group performs at festival

UAE's theatre troupe on Sunday performed a play entitled "A Story Never Told by Sheherazad" at the Dasma Theatre. The play was one of several events organised as part of the first Gulf Theatre festival. A seminar on the "Influence of Critics on the Audience" was also held at the Sheraton hotel. Arab critics Dr Hassan Al Ali, Walced Abu Bakr and Dr Ghassan Al Maleh gave a talk on the development of the theatrical movement in the Arab world.



Some Arab critics who participated in the seminar.

EDITORIALS

ARAB TIMES

Thought for today

WE think according to nature. We speak according to rules. We act according to custom — Francis Bacon, English writer (1561-1626).

Goodbye to stable image of Panama

By Bernd Debusmann

PANAMA CITY, (Reuters): Soldiers in battle gear man roadblocks in Panama. Gunfire can be heard in the military headquarters. A deposed president is in hiding and there are curfews, strikes, power cuts and rumours of fresh coups.

"Goodbye Panama," said a foreign businessman, driving past shuttered shops and rows of bank skyscrapers, their glass facades boarded up with wood. "This country is becoming just like the rest of Central America. Welcome to the club."

For much of its history, Panama cultivated the image of a world apart from its unstable neighbours, a safe haven of international commerce and banking. Panamanians never considered their country part of central America.

Confident that Panama could help set an example for the turbulent region, its government in 1983 invited the foreign ministers of Mexico, Venezuela and Colombia to the Panamanian island resort of Contadora to launch a diplomatic initiative for peace in Central America.

Failed

The Contadora initiative failed to provide solutions and in the past nine months of political and economic crisis, Panama has emerged as another problem in Central America.

Panama owed its position as a major trading post and the Western Hemisphere's most important international offshore banking centre to the tacit understanding that politics must not interfere with the smooth running of business.

That principle attracted more than 100 international banks, most of which did not ask questions about the origin of funds placed into their accounts. Panama is rife with stories about South American drug traffickers walking into banks with suitcases stuffed with cash.

But the banks have been closed for three weeks and even the government believes international banking will never be the same again. Estimates of the dollar flight from these accounts range up to \$20 billion.

"The glue that has been holding Panama together is money," said a foreign resident. "No one really cared how it was made. As long as you didn't get caught and weren't too greedy, nobody gave a hoot how you made your money. Arms, drugs, vice, intelligence, contraband, whatever."

Cynics recount that opposition to General Manuel Antonio Noriega, Panama's de facto ruler since 1983, has been fuelled not so much by lofty democratic ideals but by the fact he got caught and overstepped the system's unwritten rules.

All eyes on Somalia

By Colin Legum

LONDON: The decision by Somalia's President, Maj. Gen. Mohamed Siad Barre, to commute death sentences recently passed on 10 prominent politicians has been welcomed by close allies, particularly the United States and Saudi Arabia.

Both nations, along with other countries and international human rights groups, had urged clemency.

Western diplomats had feared that executions could seriously destabilise this strategically important Red Sea republic. As Somalia's near-octogenarian President fast approaches the end of his 19-year rule, such instability, says US and British diplomats, could result in realigning allegiances in the "horn of Africa".

The politicians, including a former vice-president, were arrested in 1982 after their failed attempt to compel Barre's resignation through constitutional means.

The arrests were widely seen in diplomatic circles as evidence of a power struggle. And Barre's restructuring of his government late last year was a sign to many that he was arranging for his succession.

In the restructuring, Barre demoted three senior ministers. The former defence minister, Mohamed Ali Samantar, retained the premiership. In the past, Samantar was seen as a favourite of Moscow's. Barre gave his own son, Maslah, the key post as military commander

Indictments in two Florida courts last month charged Noriega with taking \$4.6 million in bribes in return for turning Panama into a conduit for Colombian cocaine destined for the United States.

The indictments highlighted the role of the dollar as the driving force in Panama.

Few Panamanians paid much attention to the Feb 25 attempt by figurehead President Eric Arturo Delvalle to dismiss Noriega as head of the 16,000-member armed forces. But Panama's National Assembly deposed Delvalle instead and he has been in hiding ever since.

Delvalle had been a staunch backer of Noriega before his move to unseat the general. Both Delvalle and his successor, Manuel Solis Palma, were appointed rather than elected.

But while the change of figurehead presidents made little difference to most of the 2.3 million people in Panama, a cash crisis engineered by the United States did.

Panama is one of two nations — the other is Liberia — that use the US dollar because they have no currency of their own.

A freeze on Panamanian assets in the United States ordered by the White House drained Panama of cash, forced its banks to close on March 4 and drove thousands of public employees into the streets to demand payment of their salaries.

On the heels of the demonstrations, Army officers tried to stage a coup against Noriega, previously thought to have assured the loyalty of the officer corps by allowing it to share in profits from drug trafficking and other rackets.

"Loyalty has a price," commented a Latin diplomat, "and the mutineers probably thought that Noriega was no longer able to pay it. It would be naive to think the coup had anything to do with a sudden thirst for democracy."

A third of the officers arrested in a post-coup purge belonged to military intelligence, the branch of the armed forces which foreign military experts say has been most deeply involved in illegal activities. Noriega himself was a chief of military intelligence before he took over the Army.

A shift in military loyalty sparked Panama's crisis. Last June, Noriega's longtime second-in-command and chief of staff of the armed forces was sent into premature retirement for what the military described as health reasons.

The officer, Colonel Roberto Diaz Herrera, responded by accusing Noriega of crimes ranging from vote-rigging and corruption to responsibility for the murder of Dr Hugo Spadafora, an outspoken Noriega critic.

of the capital, Mogadishu. But though Maslah seems favoured for the succession, other members of the President's inner circle have different views.

The man some see as most likely to determine who will gain the post, if not to be the actual successor, is Col Abdelkadir Haji Mohamed, currently deputy secretary-general of the ruling party, says a well-informed Somali journalist. The colonel is one of the last survivors among the 25 military officers who staged the 1969 coup that brought Barre to power.

Barre's hold on power has progressively decreased since the Somali Army's heavy defeat in a bid to wrest the Ogaden province from Ethiopia in 1977-78. In the wake of that defeat, Barre had expelled the Soviets and opted for a new military alliance with the US and closer ties with conservative Arab neighbours in the Red Sea and Gulf.

However, it was not the Westward lurch in Barre's policies that led his former supporters to their actions, but his increasing mistrust of the major northern clans in a country where traditional nomadic loyalties remain strong. By relying increasingly on his own Marehan clan, Barre upset the former coalition among the major clans upon which political stability has rested. Tensions between the northern and southern clans have increased seriously in recent years.

The Christian Science Monitor News Service.

The old are on the defensive

Palestinian youths occupy centre stage

By Ned Temko

GAZA CITY: Israeli-occupied Gaza Strip: Barely have the eight, helmeted Israeli troops cleared the makeshift protest roadblock and driven off, when a stocky Palestinian youth emerges from behind a retaining wall. He leads a handful of even younger cohorts in a chant of "victory" over the departed soldiers, then sprints across the road to a gas station and snorts an order at the attendant.

A few months back — before the start of the intifada, or "uprising," against Israeli rule — the older Arab man might have argued. Now, he obligingly fills a plastic container with gasoline, and shrugs as the youngster races off with it to refashion the roadblock by setting an automobile tire ablaze.

To an extraordinary degree, Palestinian youths have seized the political initiative on the streets of Gaza and the nearby West Bank of the Jordan River in

the past three months. Israel still retains ultimate control of the areas, captured in the Six-Day War of 1967, through its now-reinforced troop presence.

But Israeli soldiers find themselves — in almost ritual confrontations with stone-toting youngsters — reduced to playing out a politically damaging drama of armed occupier versus unarmed occupied on world television screens.

Nationalism

And also thrown on the defensive are the fathers and mothers, uncles and aunts, of the Palestinian children who have been playing the main front-line role in the uprising. Although many adults have long yearned for an end to Israel occupation, the idea of taking to the streets represents a sharp break with the conservative traditions of Palestinian society.

The intellectual direction of the uprising is being provided in large part by West Bankers in their twenties or thirties who, as

students in high schools and universities, helped coin a distinctly local brand of Palestinian nationalism. Their avowed aim is to force the establishment of a Palestinian state in the West Bank and Gaza that would be independent both of Israel and of neighbouring Arab states such as Jordan.

Their reasoning is that the present uprising — deliberately avoiding the use of gunfire in favour of stones and roadblocks — has offered an unprecedented chance to galvanise world support for such an option.

But on the front line, the unrest is being spearheaded by Palestinians in their mere teens, or even younger. In the squalid dirt alleyways of Gaza or back roads of West Bank towns, the youths routinely block roads in implicit challenge not only to the Israelis, but to the large number of local Palestinians who have long committed to work inside Israel.

The minimum acceptable "password" required of the

adults is the Churchillian "V", for-victory sign, unofficial emblem of the uprising. Sometimes, that is not enough. "Go back to Israel where you work," shouted the Gazan youth at a returning carload of Palestinians when he'd finished erecting his roadblock. When the driver made as if to protest, he took after the car with stones.

Despite such incidents, the uprising's footsoldiers still seem subject to the discipline of its political strategists. On the crucial decision not to use firearms, the line is holding firm — at least for now.

Militant

Nevertheless, at least some West Bankers privately express concern that the rank-and-file youngsters may generally become more militant and less subject to anyone's political directives or control.

One prominent local Arab political figure speaks of the "intoxications" he senses among the

young stone-throwers. The reference is to a sudden sense "of being unfraid" of the Israelis whose rule they had come to accept as unchallengeable. But the lesson of other conflicts — Lebanon, or South Africa — is that the youngsters' simple, nonpolitical enjoyment of sudden power over adult authority figures could prove an even more political narcotic.

What is certain is that adults have ceased to call the political tune here. A confrontation with troops after Friday prayers recently in Ramallah, north of Jerusalem, illustrated the new balance.

As this and several other reporters gazed on, a group of youngsters led by a teenager in a ski parka unfurled Palestinian flags, juggled jagged stones in their hands, and marched out to meet awaiting Israeli units. On the sidewalk, a few older residents seemed anxious to prove their own "resistance" credentials.

"Ya shebab, jeshi!" cried a

middle-aged man. "Kids, watch out, the Army is approaching!" When, as in earlier weeks, the rocks flew and the Army fired teargas cartridges and rubber bullets in reply, the man ducked instantly into an alleyway. "This happens week after week," he sighed when it was all over. "Who can say where it will end?"

In Gaza's Jabalyah refugee camp, a man in his 30s provides one answer. Pointing out a 31/2-year-old girl named Sanaa with a bruise on her face, he says the injury came in a clash with police. "Who do you want to rule us?" he asks the child in Arabic. "The Israelis?"

"No," she says. "Who is our leader?" "Arafat," she answers, reflecting the almost universal, if perhaps symbolic, support here for Palestine Liberation Organisation chief Yasser Arafat.

Then, with a vacant gaze, she forms her tiny fingers into a "V" sign.

The Christian Science Monitor News Service.

... and to our children and to their children and to their children's children. I leave the remainder of my estate, the debt of two and one-half trillion dollars....



DRAWING UP THE WILL

Cordovez: a mix of pep and perseverance

By Hans Neuerbourg

GENEVA, (AP): Deadlock is a word that does not exist in the vocabulary of Diego Cordovez.

Since the tedious talks on an Afghan peace settlement began six years ago, most people, including those directly involved, gave up hope at one time or another.

Not Cordovez, the UN under-secretary-general and broker between Pakistani and Afghan negotiators who have not spoken to each other since the talks were launched.

Now, final success, though still elusive, seems within reach with all main elements complete in a package of agreements designed to end one of the bloodiest conflicts since World War II, with an estimated 1.2 million dead in a country of 15 million.

Mediating between the two sides turned out to be a Sisyphean job, as Cordovez readily conceded in an interview with the Associated Press. "It requires tremendous physical and mental strength. You cannot do it unless you're convinced you will succeed."

"It has happened that everybody has given up, except myself," he added. "Not to give up is my duty."

That attitude probably came in handy on a string of other trouble-shooting assignments — mostly unsuccessful — since the Ecuadorian joined the UN system as a 27-year-old law graduate of the University of Chile.

Cordovez estimates that he is away from his New York home base for almost four months a year.

In 1965 he was in the Dominican Republic, then in the throes of a civil war, and he went to Bangladesh shortly after it gained independence following the 1971 Indo-Pakistani war.

Cordovez was the highest UN official to accompany a special independent mission to Tehran that failed to resolve the US-Soviet



Diego Cordovez

tag crisis in February 1980, and he helped settle a dispute between Malta and Libya over offshore prospecting rights.

While the Afghanistan talks were under way, Cordovez was also involved in the UN efforts to end the Iran-Iraq war and was sent to Grenada after the 1983 US invasion.

"I do not regret my UN career for one minute," he reminisced. "I had one interesting assignment after the other."

Challenge

But none has posed more of a challenge than his current one. Cordovez is credited with avoiding an early collapse of the talks over what to outsiders may look trivial. Pakistan, which considers the Kahul government a Soviet puppet, refused direct talks although it still has a diplomatic mission in the Afghan capital.

Initially, the delegations took turns meeting with Cordovez. When the Afghans threatened to leave unless they gained more recognition from the Pakistanis, the UN diplomat devised the "proximity" formula under which both delegations sit in separate rooms in the Geneva UN office, with Cordovez shuttling between them.

No hurdle appeared bigger than the question of how much time the estimated 115,000 Soviet troops should be given to leave Afghanistan. The gap between the two sides' positions

originally was 43 months. On March 4, after years of prodding by Cordovez, final agreement was reached on a nine-month timetable.

"The satisfaction of getting the adversaries to compromise is fantastic," he said. "The more difficult the problem, the more I enjoy it."

Tough

His low background helps, he said. "A lawyer always sees what argument the other side could have." He is also known to take a very tough stance occasionally. But his biggest assets may be perseverance and pep. He said he has been "cracking jokes all the time" during his meetings with the two sides.

"A sense of humour is absolutely essential in these negotiations," Cordovez said, explaining that he inherited this from his father, a well-known politician in Ecuador. "A joke can immediately defuse a situation."

Recently, he was seen limping down a corridor. There was no accident, a bystander was assured. Cordovez was just illustrating that the talks were "limping on."

Journalists grabbed their pens when he opened a rare news conference by saying that he had an "important announcement" to make: "My name is not spelled with an accent over the 'O' and if a newspaper keeps misspelling it I will cease buying it," he announced.

Upbeat

His constantly upbeat assessments are often mocked by journalists. In reprisal, he lectures the press "not to confuse slow progress at the talks" whenever he spots a gloom-filled appraisal. He closely follows media reports on the closed-door negotiations. Often the sources are in the Pakistani delegation though Cordovez has also been known to invite a few journalists to his office for confidential briefings and pep talks, but avoiding the wire services.

By Terence Hunt

WASHINGTON, (AP): President Ronald Reagan, rewriting his own rules for superpower summits, is preparing for talks with Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev that appear unlikely to produce a new arms treaty or resolve major disputes.

With the end of his presidency fast approaching, Reagan has decided to ignore his requirement that a summit must bode the promise of success and must lead to the signing of a substantial agreement.

Visit

"The man is 77 years old, and I think he wants to come out in the history books as somebody who has done tremendous things in superpower relations for the long-term benefit of US national security," said William Taylor, vice-president for political-military affairs at the Centre for Strategic and International Studies.

"I subscribe to the theory that Ronald Reagan wants to make a strategic arms agreement, a centerpiece of what he will have accomplished over eight years," Taylor said. "I think it's possible he can do it before next January but I certainly don't think it's going to happen at the May-June summit."

Reagan will visit Moscow from May 29 to June 2, the first

American president to go to the Soviet capital in 14 years.

The president had cited his insistence on guaranteed success in refusing to meet with Soviet leaders Leonid Brezhnev, Konstantin Chernenko and Yuri Andropov. He bent the rule to hold an introductory meeting with Gorbachev in 1985.

However, the rule was back in force in 1986 when Reagan met with Gorbachev in Reykjavik, Iceland. With no advance prospects of agreement, Reagan doggedly refused to call it a summit.

For their third meeting — the Washington summit last December — an agreement was ready for signing to abolish intermediate-range nuclear missiles.

Gorbachev had refused to come to Washington until that treaty was completed. But in inviting Reagan to Moscow, the Soviet leader made no demand for the completion of an even more ambitious arms agreement, the strategic arms accord that would cut deeply into long-range nuclear weapons.

Credit

Reagan and Gorbachev both appear content to meet, merely for the sake of meeting.

Even with no agreements, there are sure to be political rewards for both leaders.

Reagan and Gorbachev will get credit for continuing the

superpower dialogue at the highest level and for struggling with the difficult problems of arms control, analysts say.

For Gorbachev, the summit will showcase his foreign policy achievements before a Communist Party conference later in June. For Reagan, it will highlight efforts toward peacemaking as the campaign for a presidential successor moves toward the Democratic and Republican nominating conventions.

"It will give the perception of progress in dealing with the Soviet Union, which certainly will help Vice-President George Bush," the expected Republican nominee, said William Schneider, an analyst at the American Enterprise Institute.

"Both sides (Reagan and Gorbachev) get political benefit in showing progress is being made. It's hard to have a summit and not come up with something," Schneider said.

Score

Taylor said Reagan also will score points in Europe where polls show Gorbachev is perceived as more of a peacemaker than Reagan.

Yet it appears unlikely they will be able to sign a new arms accord. "I wouldn't want to lay you odds (make a bet)," Secretary of State George Shultz said when asked if a treaty would be ready.

Rome-based institute helps Third World to negotiate better

By Jill Serjeant

ROME, (Reuters): Hundreds of Third World officials are sharpening their skills in negotiating with industrialised countries thanks to a Rome-based institute founded by three young Western lawyers.

Born out of first-hand experience of developing countries, the International Development Law Institute (IDLI) runs courses for some 140 lawyers from 85 countries a year. It aims at putting them on a more even footing in foreign transactions ranging from aid to build a road through the African bush to major debt rescheduling.

"Unless you are cynical, you can't live through a Third World experience without being thoroughly affected for the rest of your life," Frenchman Gilles Blanchi, 36, one of the three founders of IDLI, told Reuters from the Rome headquarters.

During their work in Africa, the three friends saw newly-qualified lawyers often thrust into demanding and difficult circumstances without the benefit of experience available to their counterparts in industrialised nations.

The three lawyers believed that, while not being exploited as such, Third World countries could be negotiating more advantageous terms from the rich North in development aid, foreign investment and international trade.

Resources

"With the very scarce resources that developing countries have for this sort of thing, it seemed a shame to waste them," American William Loris of IDLI said.

After two years lobbying for support and funds, the three men established IDLI in 1983 as a neutral, non-profit making body funded by grants from a number of governments and organisations.

From modern headquarters in Rome, IDLI runs courses, seminars and workshops aimed at providing practical experience

in drafting, negotiating and implementing contracts.

"If one participant manages in one instance to improve one aspect of one clause in one major contract, his country may save millions of dollars in avoided claims, delays or other unforeseen pitfalls," Loris said.

IDLI's students are middle to senior level legal advisers from government ministries, banks and state bodies who are brought face to face with senior officials from organisations including the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, Unctad, Gatt, the European Economic Community and the United States Development body USAID.

In the classroom students go through the process of negotiating a foreign deal with the benefit of insight from experts who normally sit on the other side of the table.

"It's not instant expertise but it's better than nothing. At least half the battle is improving people's confidence," Loris told

Reuters. About 60 per cent of students come from Africa with the Middle East and Asia providing most of the rest. Several Latin American and Caribbean countries have also begun sending candidates.

In February IDLI, which now has five legal counsellors who devise the courses, and an administrative staff of 11, was reconstituted as a fully-fledged international organisation.

"I hope the new status will mean the institute has greater respect. It should protect its neutrality and provide a forum for countries supporting it to play a greater part," Loris said.

With demand for study places in Rome exceeding availability by about three to one, IDLI now runs specialist workshops abroad. In 1986 it conducted a week-long course in China on company law and instructors travelled to Indonesia to run a session on legal aspects of foreign trade.

TODAY IN HISTORY

- 1629 — Edict of restitution of church property in Germany, whereby all property secularised since Peace of Augsburg (1555) is restored to Catholic church.
- 1792 — Sweden's King Gustavus III is assassinated.
- 1801 — Britain seizes Danish and Swedish islands in West Indies.
- 1830 — Spain's King Ferdinand VII passes law allowing females to be heirs to throne.
- 1849 — Britain annexes Punjab in India by treaty with Maharajah of Lahore.
- 1864 — Ionian Islands are ceded by Britain to Greece.
- 1946 — New constitution in Gold Coast, which becomes first British African colony with majority of Africans in legislature.
- 1947 — National revolt against France in Madagascar begins.
- 1951 — Chinese government rejects US offer for truce discussions in Korea.
- 1967 — France launches its first nuclear submarine.
- 1972 — Government of Bolivia orders 119 members of Soviet embassy staff to leave country — accusing embassy of financing leftist rebel movements.
- 1973 — Last American troops leave South Vietnam, ending direct military role of United States in Vietnam war.
- 1977 — US and Soviet negotiators, meeting in Moscow, agree to set up committees to seek solutions to several arms control and diplomatic problems.

سید احمد علی

Still preaching free-sex doctrine

Rajneesh, rich man's guru, back in business

By Denholm Barnetson

PUNE, India (UPI): In a gleaming silver-grey Mercedes-Benz gliding from a whitewashed house set in six acres of lush greenery sits Bhagwan Shree Rajneesh, grinning through his long grey beard and gently waving to hundreds of patiently waiting followers.

His mostly young Western disciples sit cross-legged on the floor of an open-sided pavilion, swaying and chanting Rajneesh's name.

At last he emerges from behind a curtain on stage, clad in a flowing silver gown, his palms together in the traditional Indian greeting, and takes his throne-like seat. Skilful lighting appears to bathe

him in an ethereal golden glow. Instantly the congregation is silent. For two hours Rajneesh discourses on everything from sex and meditation to communism and the Pope, interspersed with crude witticisms.

Rajneesh, 56, the rich man's guru and free-sex advocate, is back in business. But with a difference.

Now the former philosophy professor and his followers, under pressure from local authorities, are strenuously avoiding the kind of controversy that first hit the headlines in 1974 and have dogged them ever since.

His most recent troubles, in the United States, proved to be his most traumatic.

Rajneesh, who has referred to President Reagan as "Adolf Hitler No. 1" and Americans as "subhuman", was effectively deported from the United States in November 1985 after paying a \$400,000 fine and pleading no contest to immigration fraud charges in connection with more than 400

sham marriages. Many of the leaders of his Oregon commune are in US jails.

Rajneesh, denied entry or expelled by 21 countries, eventually returned to the commune in Pune (formerly Poona), 750 miles (1,200 km) south of New Delhi, which he left in 1981 to seek medical treatment in the United States.

But there remain only hints of the scandals that surrounded his previous stay in Pune and subsequent four years in Rajneeshpuram, the 'city' his followers created in Oregon to the ire of local residents and US authorities.

The Mercedes, which he uses only to take him to his morning and evening discourses, has



Shri Rajneesh, 56: high-living guru and advocate of free sex.

replaced 93 Rolls-Royces given to him by his followers in Oregon.

Devotees are no longer restricted to wearing the orange robes and beaded necklaces that once identified Rajneeshites. In deference to Indian morality, they are dissuaded from kissing or hugging in public. Some controversial programmes have been dropped.

"Things were much more rigid in Oregon," said Chaitanya Koori, editor of the Rajneesh Times. "We've now stopped certain kinds of

meditation because we found people had outgrown them. A certain evolution has taken place."

Local authorities agree.

"They are certainly better behaved now because we have demanded they follow rules and regulations," said a senior police official.

When the Bhagwan (which means "God" in Hindi) returned

in January 1987, Pune police ordered him to leave within 24 hours, claiming his presence constituted a threat to public peace.

But officials worked out a deal allowing him to remain if his disciples observed certain conditions, including avoiding "obscene behaviour" in public and making provocative speeches.

Ma Prem Sunshine, an American who has been with Rajneesh for six years, said trouble has been avoided because the disciples have matured since Oregon.

"The same people are coming back, but they are now more refined and that reflects in our behaviour," said Sunshine, who resides in a 19-bedroom Pune mansion with swimming pool and servants. "Also, people are coming with more money and they are more interested in living comfortably."

During his first seven years in Pune, many Indians heaped scorn on Rajneesh for what they considered the immoral behaviour of his disciples.

But now officials and local residents appear prepared to accept him and his 3,000 followers in Pune. "The city's merchants are unable to contain their glee at the commune's revival."

"Our sales have almost doubled since the commune returned," said Jamshed Chor, assistant manager of the coffee shop at the nearby Blue Diamond Hotel.

Manoj Jain, owner of a local boutique, said he was expanding his shop to install a juice bar.

"A lot of people have come here since last year to try and start businesses, but the competition is fierce," he said.

Rickshaws line up 20 deep outside the Ashram. Hordes of street salesmen besiege potential customers.

Construction of apartment blocks around the Ashram has been intense. Rents have tripled; even some prominent citizens reportedly let out rooms at inflated prices.

Rajneesh lives alone in an elegant house on the commune, surrounded by six acres of pastoral greenery and waterfalls designed by Japanese devotees to create a soothing atmosphere.

He retains the charisma that mesmerised an estimated 500,000 followers worldwide, but his detractors say the high-flying guru has been forced down to earth.

Her husband's helper

By Alison Smaile

BELGRADE, Yugoslavia. (AP): Ever since stunning the media on her first appearance in London in 1984, Raisa Gorbachev's stylish good looks and clothes have confounded the cliché that all Soviet women are roly-poly bawshkas or burly builders of communism.

While her husband lived up to the Kremlin's politics, Raisa has lent him a previously unseen glamour.

In Belgrade, she has shown some other sides of her character — a skill that matches her husband's in handling photographers and an eye for detail.

Last week, Mrs Gorbachev was hardly the passive tourist when she visited a fancy furniture store more like a Western shop than those she knows from home.

At one point, Mrs Gorbachev appeared to think the store might be a special closed shop — like those for the Soviet communist elite.

"I have a question," she said sharply to her guides. "Why are there no shoppers here?"

Mrs Gorbachev was assured that the store was open to the general public, but just closed for her visit.

Under the detailed questioning of the Soviet first lady, however, it emerged that the number of customers is dropping because Yugoslavia's triple-digit inflation leaves most Belgraders little money to buy the luxury furniture and household goods the store sells.

Mrs Gorbachev admitted to some trouble in coping with Yugoslavia's six- and seven-digit prices for everyday goods.

"These millions, they kill me," she joked as she paraded round the store, closely examining the China, textiles, glassware, beds and sofas she was shown.

She seemed equally interested in a short Yugoslav fashion show and, ever gracious with photographers, gladly consented to pose with models in a hail of flashing camera lights.

Her past as a lecturer in Marxism-Leninism showed through, however, in clipped, schoolmarmish questioning of the store employees who

accompanied her. Her questions, delivered in a high, crisp voice, yielded a fount of information about everything from credit terms to manufacturing sources.

At one point Mrs. Gorbachev took a determined bet with a store employee that the carpet he was showing her was not all wool.

She lost, exclaiming "100 per cent wool — I didn't think there was such a thing today."

Picking up China, poking in refrigerators, checking mattresses and the purpose of other furniture she was shown, Mrs Gorbachev seemed to absorb all the details.

Such trips doubtless help her husband to fill in his picture of the countries and cities he visits, yielding accounts of daily life he cannot see while engrossed in political negotiations.

Mrs Gorbachev's expensive clothes and prominence at her husband's side have caused much resentful criticism from Soviets at home.

The note that no ordinary Soviet has the money or clout to

look like Raisa and mutter about a woman meddling in what is seen as the men's business of politics.

A Soviet official, speaking privately, admitted last May before the Gorbachevs arrived in the Romanian capital of Bucharest that "not everybody in our country agrees that she should be along."

But, he said, Gorbachev "says it helps him to have her there. Apparently, it helped a lot that she was in Reykjavik" at the Soviet leader's 1986 unsuccessful summit with US President Ronald Reagan.

In public, the Gorbachevs clearly show their affection for each other, constantly exchanging glances and small asides.

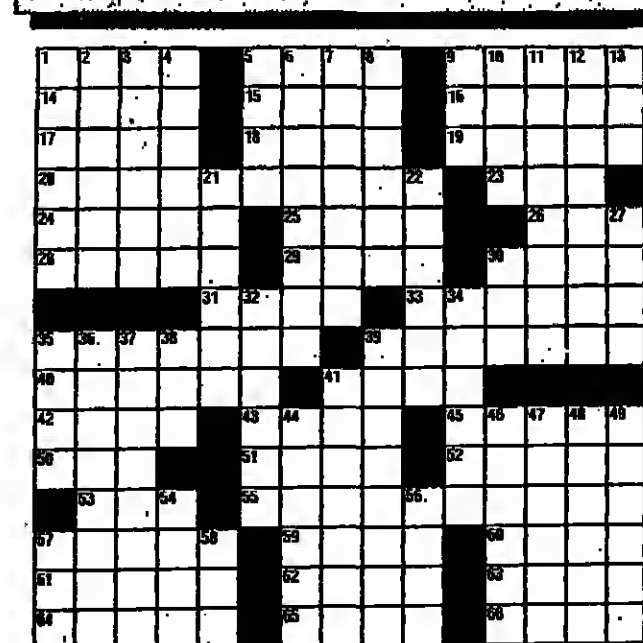
The couple, married in 1954 when students in Moscow, held hands as they walked together up a long stairway leading to a monument to the unknown soldier on a hill outside Belgrade.

And at a formal dinner they twice leaned across Yugoslav President Lazar Mojsov, seated between them, to clink glasses and smile warmly at each other during formal toasts.



Raisa Gorbachev: no passive tourist during her recent visit to Yugoslavia

TODAY'S CROSSWORD



- ACROSS
- Super fan
 - America
 - Title in India
 - Indigo
 - "The — Love"
 - Get around
 - Sports org.
 - Race track, e.g.
 - "First State" capital
 - Stuffed shirt's cousin
 - Pallid
 - Beastly types
 - Fender bender
 - Dundee denial
 - Kernels
 - Within: Prefix
 - Quarrel
 - Between families
 - Ewers' features
 - Released
 - Justifies
 - Imitation autograph?
 - Balance
 - Transmit
 - "Candid Camera" man
 - Jolt
 - Muse of lyric poetry
 - Obsession
 - Sound recording
 - Normadic type
 - School org.
 - Giving voice to
 - "Common Sense" author
 - Lament
 - Actress
 - Thompson
 - Torment
 - Italian wine district
 - School near Windsor Castle
 - Crowded

- DOWN
- Stringed instruments
 - Free
 - Small carriage
 - Peel off
 - Light or shine starter
 - Attila's men, a.g.
 - Feather-shaped marine life
 - Mum
 - Carmine
 - Swear
 - Certain Indonesians
 - "Der Alte"
 - Part of HRH
 - Agree
 - Stem running underground: Bot.
 - Small whirlpool
 - In a — (bewildered)
 - Fidoles
 - Mandates
 - Skillful
 - Rig
 - Role
 - Break a fast
 - Units
 - Imagine
 - Internal revenue agent
 - Betsy and Diana
 - Barnstorm
 - Sinew
 - Church
 - Dancer Miller and namesakes
 - Author
 - Bagnoid
 - Solo digs
 - Ogle

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

MAKO MINTS SHIP
ISEE ABEAM WACO
CHERRIES JUBILEE
KEN ETAT AVERY
BERM VANE
STRIDE GERALDO
TOIL VENIN ILL
APPLEPIE ALAMODE
GEE DULSE EDIE
ENTITLED CAREER
ASTA RARE TIP
CHOCOLATE MOUSSE
AINU ERAISE SAIL
ROAM SIREN ERSE

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF
JUST COUNT TO TWO

Both vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH
K 10 9 8
A K 3
7 4
6 5 3 2

WEST
7 5 2
J 10 9 4
K J 9 6
10 8

EAST
A J 6 4 3
8 7 5
2
J 9 7 4

SOUTH
Q
Q 6 2
A Q 10 8 5 3
A K Q

The bidding:

South West North East
1 Pass 1 Pass
3 Pass 3 Pass
3 NT Pass Pass Pass

Opening lead: Jack of

You are doing well in a duplicate

pair competition. How would you

play this hand, reported by Mike

Oechler of Cincinnati, at three no

trump after a heart opening lead?

The bidding has been uneventful.

For his rebid North chose to show

his strong fragment, and your final

contract should be reached at al-

most every table. The lead looks

perfectly normal, so how do you

proceed?

You have seven fast tricks, and

your chances of setting up at least three more in diamonds are excellent. You will always establish the suit if it splits 3-2, a 68 percent shot. Even if the suit breaks 4-1 offside, you will succeed if East's singleton is the king, jack or nine or if East holds the diamond length, a further 23 percent. You are a heavy favorite to collect a minimum of one overtrick.

Therefore, it is right to win the first heart in dummy and take the diamond finesse. When this loses, you take the second heart on the table, intending to repeat the diamond finesse. As the cards lie, you can't recover and will go down one. An unfortunate result, but one that you can expect will be duplicated across the field.

Naturally, your rubber bridge friends laugh at you. They will be quick to point out that you went down in a contract that was frigid. They would win the first trick in hand, lead the queen of spades and overtake with the king. Regardless of what the defenders do, there are enough entries in dummy to drive out the spade stoppers and score two tricks in the suit. You are guaranteed nine tricks via two spades, three hearts, one diamond and three clubs.



"I'll do your gallstones and your wife's broken pelvis for your left kidney."

THE WIZARD OF ID

By Brant Parker and Johnny Hart



B.C.

By Johnny Hart



YOUR STARS



Aries (March 20 - April 18)

You should not dwell too much on the past. Do not underestimate the importance of practice when you are learning. Make notes, do not rely too much on your memory. Be prompt.



Taurus (April 19 - May 19)

You will be in high spirits and should avoid acting on the spur of the moment. Make sure you get enough sleep. You should not rest on your laurels. Be meticulous.



Gemini (May 20 - June 20)

You will be a little nervous and unsure of yourself. The prospects are good, but you will have to work hard. Do not expect others always to have your best interests in mind. Be frank.



Cancer (June 21 - July 21)

You will be able to make good use of a fair opportunity. Do not place too much significance on some minor event. Make sure you meet your commitments. Be loyal.



Leo (July 22 - Aug. 21)

The Moon's influence will help you to make up your mind. You should not delay something you know should be done now. Curb a tendency towards impulsiveness. Be courteous.



Virgo (Aug. 22 - Sept. 21)

Remember that people do not always want to hear the truth about themselves. The prospects are better than they seem but there is no room for idleness.



Libra (Sept. 22 - Oct. 22)

You will be able to put two and two together, but you must not make it more than four. A project of yours will not be as successful as you had hoped. You should do all you can to preserve harmony with your partner. Be benevolent.



Scorpio (Oct. 23 - Nov. 21)

Do not allow some small setback to deter you. Make sure you do not do anything detrimental to your health. Have a little more patience and forbearance. Be frugal.



Sagittarius (Nov. 22 - Dec. 21)

You should act promptly but not on the spur of the moment. If you feel a little tired try to get to bed a bit earlier. Leave yourself with enough time to think carefully. Be responsive.



Capricorn (Dec. 22 - Jan. 19)

You will have plenty to do and should make yourself a working schedule. You will have to act fast not to miss a good opportunity. There is nothing to be gained by exaggerating the difficulties nor by ignoring them. Be sensible.



Aquarius (Jan. 20 - Feb. 18)

You will not feel up to your usual self and should try to take it easy. Concentrate on essentials first. You should not act on conjecture or supposition. Be firm.



Pisces (Feb. 19 - March 19)

The situation is not as bad as it might seem. You should not allow yourself to be possessed by negative thoughts. Welcome rather than fearing change and face up to it. Be relevant.

JUNIOR TIMES

Dear Junior Readers,

It is fun to play games with a group of friends. It seems that there are often some children, however, who do not get a turn to play as often as others.

Of course, it is natural that you want to choose your best friends to play, but it is a real mark of maturity when you can think about those children that are not always included in the activity.

You will enjoy group activities more when all of the children are included in the fun.

Aunt Barbara

Happy birthday

Joel Joseph D'Souza celebrated his 4th birthday on March 25 in Dharwad, India. Best wishes, Joel from your family and friends in Kuwait.



Parrot pleasures and problems

Kojak, this African Grey parrot, is just plain neurotic. Despite an elegant free-flight aviary at Pets' Corner in Kings Heath Park in Birmingham, he insists on plucking out all his feathers. So far he has removed his flight feathers, leg plumage and all his breast feathers. But for a few feathers on his head, he is completely bald, and, of course, he can't fly properly. So to keep him warm and to keep him from plucking himself further, his keeper Cherman Minks knitted him a snazzy pink and yellow pullover. So far the treatment has worked wonders: Kojak seems to like wool much better than feathers.



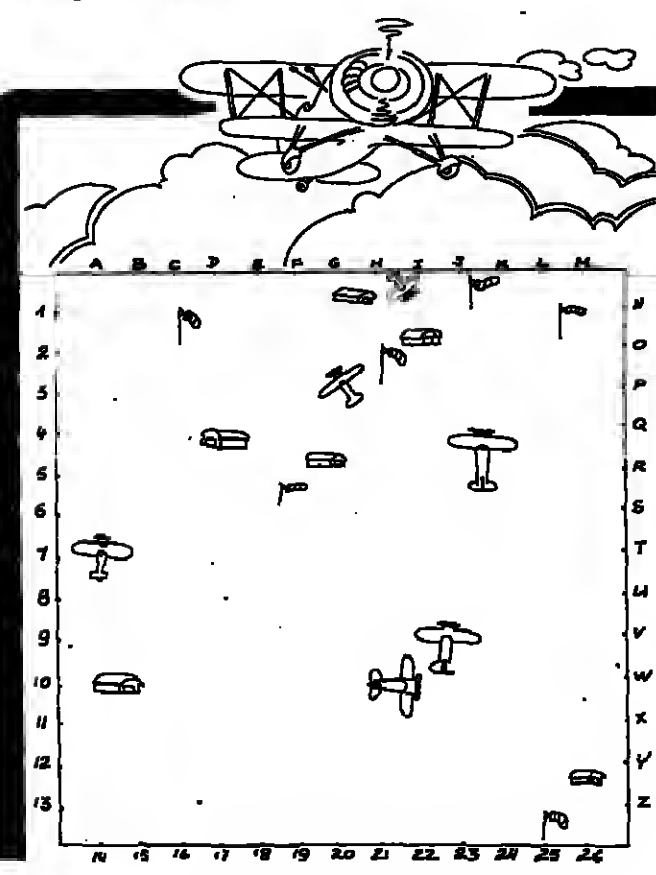
ONE of the most desirable attributes of pet parrots is their talent for mimicry. A truly good talking parrot is a source of pleasure and pride for the owner. The African grey parrot, or grey parrot, is one of the most gifted talking birds and can acquire an extensive repertoire of words, music and sounds. They learn quickly and in addition can be very affectionate towards their owners. They are active birds and spend much of the day climbing around, whistling, talking and playing.

These parrots are native to equatorial Africa, where they live in large flocks, roosting together in the same trees nightly. Their natural foods include seeds, nuts, berries, fruits and vegetables. They have been known to descend upon corn crops and cause considerable damage, but they reportedly spend most of their time feeding in the treetops.

African grey parrots are tiny when hatched, but they soon grow to a length of approximately 13 inches, although size can vary greatly from bird to bird. The plumage is predominantly grey with a scalloped effect. Feathers of the head, facial area and rump are pale grey, while the back, chest and abdominal feathers are darker grey. In some birds the entire body may be more silver than grey, often due to regional differences. Flight feathers are black, as are the bill and feet. In startling contrast, the tail is bright red. Very young birds display a dark grey iris that turns yellow as they mature.

Air Lines

Using only three straight lines, can you divide this rectangle into six areas, each area containing a plane, a hangar and a windsock? Each line must run from one lettered or numbered point to another.



IT's Pony Penning Day!

Fishermen and chicken farmers who live on the island of Chincoteague become cowboys for a day. Early in the morning they cross the narrow channel of water that separates their island from the neighbouring island of Assateague.

There — more than five miles off the coast of Virginia — live hundreds of wild ponies. No one knows how the little horses got there. But they have roamed free on the island for hundreds of years.

The cowboys round up the wild ponies. They drive them into the water and across the channel to Chincoteague. Then the whole herd — almost two hundred stallions and mares and foals of all ages — gallops down the main street of town to the fairgrounds.

Each year thousands of people from all over the United States come to Chincoteague on this day late in July. They come to play games and watch horse races and go on all sorts of carnival rides. Most of all they come to look at the wild ponies. And some also come to buy one. Every year many of the half-grown ponies are sold. The rest are driven back to Assateague. (If some of the ponies weren't sold every year, there soon would be too many on the island — and not enough food for any of them to eat.)

Twenty-five thousand people went to Pony Penning Day in the summer of 1946. One was a writer named Marguerite Henry. Pony Penning Day was almost over when Mrs Henry saw a mare standing a little apart from the other ponies. Lying by the

The story of Misty

mare's side was a tiny foal.

Mrs Henry knew she had to own this foal. But the mare and foal had already been sold to a man who lived on Chincoteague — a man everyone called Grandpa Beebe.

And Grandpa didn't want to sell the pony. "She's only a week old. That's far too young to leave her mother. Take another," he said.

But Marguerite Henry knew that this was the foal she had to have — and no other. "I need her," she begged. "I'm a writer. I want to build a book around an Assateague pony. And somehow I know it will be a better book if this pony is with me while I'm writing it."

"Well..." Grandpa Beebe scratched his ear. "If you let her stay here for a few months — until she's old enough to leave her mother..."

Marguerite Henry went home and began to write her book — and a few months later the half-grown pony arrived in Illinois. Mrs Henry named her Misty.

Then the book was finished. It was called Misty of Chincoteague — and from the beginning it was a huge success. The book was full of adventures — some of them true and some made up.

Now many people knew about Misty. Everyone wanted the little pony to pay them a visit. She was asked to horse shows. She visited schools and libraries and book stores. She went to all kinds of parties. Finally Mar-

guerite Henry had to buy a special notebook — just to write down all of Misty's invitations!

Marguerite Henry had made a promise to Grandpa Beebe. She had promised to send Misty back to Chincoteague when she was old enough to be a mother. But Mrs Henry loved Misty so! Somehow the years kept slipping by — and Misty was still in Illinois.

Finally Mrs Henry knew it was time — no, it was past time — to send Misty back to her first home. "Don't worry," she said to the many children who came to say good-bye. "I know Misty will be happy in her new home."

And she was. Misty spent her days running through the pine woods and salty meadows with Grandpa Beebe's other ponies. And about a year later her first baby was born. All across the country, radio and television stations carried the good news about the new mother and her little colt named Phantom Wings.

Then it was spring of 1962. Early one morning heavy clouds rolled across the sky. The day grew darker and darker. An icy cold wind blew from the north. By evening a freezing rain was falling.

Misty was about to have another baby. By midnight water was flowing across the floor of her barn. The water was full of mud and sand and bits of strange things. First it slipped against her hoofs. Then inch by inch it started to creep up her legs. Misty gave a nervous whinny.

Late in the afternoon the government said everyone would have to leave. Helicopters would take them to safe places on the mainland.

But what about Misty? There was no room in the helicopters for animals. The Beebes did the only thing they could. They led Misty across the watery back yard, up the porch steps, and into their kitchen. The house was on a small hill, so the floor was still dry. They piled hay in a corner and filled the big sink with water. They dumped all the vegetables in the refrigerator on the floor. Then they gave her one last pat and left.

The storm raged on four more days. Then the wind began to die. The rain stopped and the water began to go down. The causeway to the island was above water once more. The people of Chincoteague could go home.

But to what? The storm had done terrible damage. Some houses leaned crazily to one side. Others weren't there — they'd been swept out to sea. Cars and trucks had been tossed about like toys. Boats had been lifted out of the water and thrown high up on land.

But Misty was fine. She'd eaten all the hay and vegetables. She'd drunk all the water. Then — somehow — she had opened the refrigerator door and tipped over a full bottle of her favourite treat — molasses.

Early the next morning Misty gave birth to a little tan-and-white daughter. It had been hard to name



Misty's first baby. Everyone had a different idea. But there was no trouble naming this fuzzy little filly. She was Stormy, of course!

As soon as things had been cleaned up, a little group of men rowed over to Assateague. Some of the ponies there had reached higher land. But more than half the herd had been swept out to sea. Would there ever be another Pony Penning Day — with so few of the wild horses left?

Then someone had an idea. Suppose the people of Chincoteague bought back some of the ponies — those that had been sold in other years? These ponies would have foals and build up the herd once more. It was a good idea — but where would they get the money to buy the ponies?

Then one of the men who made the movie about Misty called the mayor of Chincoteague. He wanted to know how everyone was after the storm. The mayor told him about their problem.

"What if we show the movie again?" the man

said. "We'll send it to every theater that wants it. And all the money it makes will go to help buy back the ponies."

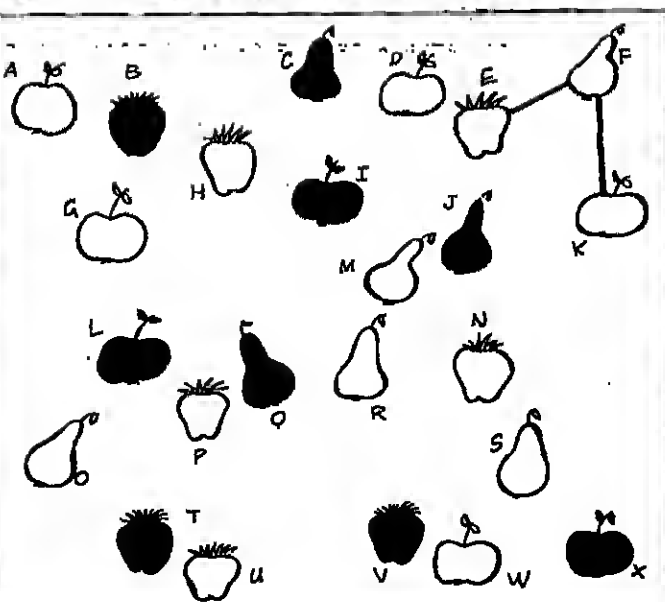
It sounded wonderful. But so many children had just seen the movie. Would they go to see it again, so soon? What if Misty and Stormy went with the movie... Surely the boys and girls would come then!

For three months mother and daughter went from town to town and theater to theater. Misty stood on her stool and shook hands with long lines of boys and girls. Stormy nursed and played happily on all the different stages. Sometimes mother and daughter stood nose to nose, making soft sounds to one another. As one man said when he saw them, "Those two are born actors!"

When the tour was over, enough money had been raised to buy back about fifty ponies. Misty and Stormy — along with boys and girls all across America — had saved the wild land of Assateague!

Group the fruit

Can you join these pieces of fruit into groups of three — a strawberry, a pear and an apple? Each group must be of the same colour and the traced lines must not cross.



Search for a song

The song "Happy Birthday to You" was published in 1935, and is copyrighted until 2010. All the words below are to do with songs and singing.

Air	Cavatina	Hymn	Part-song
Anthem	Chanson	Jingle	Psalm
Aria	Chant	Lay	Recitative
Arietta	Chorus	Lied	Refrain
Aubade	Cradle song	Lit	Round
Ballad	Descant	Lullaby	Roundelay
Barcarole	Dirge	Lyric	Sea shanty
Berceuse	Dithyramb	Madrigal	Serenade
Bourdon	Ditty	Melisma	Solo
Canzone	Duet	Melody	Song
Canzonetta	Elegy	Monody	Strophe
Carol	Folk-song	Negro spiritual	Tune
	Glee	Paeon	

B G N O S K L O F D M O S P Y L A C
E E T N M E N U T I P A R T S O N G
R O Y O E S O L O R N M Y H D R I B
C R A D L E S O N G I D F D A A T A
E E L R I R I A A E O O U T L C A R
U C E U S H E L N L L E L I L C V C
S I D O M O Y I E G T I Z O A A A A
E T N B A R A M N O L I E D B N C R
L A U T I R I P S O R G E N Z T H O
A T O C F T M G S D A F L O S A A L
G I R E N A N O N U Y U N E N T N E
I V R A T O L U N A R E B T E A S D
R E R U S N O A L O T O H A E R O A
D I T H Y R A M B T D E H A D I N N
A E L G N I J H A H M Y P C S E M E
M D E S C A N T C M E H P O R T S R
M L A S P E N O Z N A C D I T T Y E
E Y B L U L L A B Y T N A H S A E S

Asia

Where the evil-smelling Rafflesia flourishes

THE Rafflesia grows in the mountain forests of Malaysia. It is a parasite and grows on large woody vines, the seeds germinating in the rough bark of the stems of the vine which lie on the ground. The Rafflesia has no green, for it does not contain chlorophyll, which gives plants their green colour.

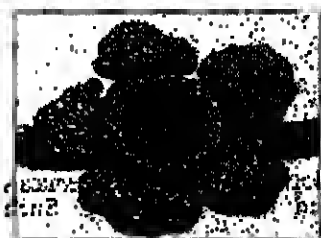
The leaves of the Rafflesia are like small fish-scales and the only unusual feature of the plant is its flower. This has a fetid smell resembling that of rotting meat, which attracts several kinds of insects.

Rafflesia flowers are usually large. They have five limp, fleshy petal-like segments of a reddish or purplish-brown colour which grow out of a very short stalk.

The largest Rafflesia known is the Rafflesia arnoldi which has flowers more than a metre across of a very bright red dotted with white. It is found in the equatorial forests of Sumatra and Java.

Where the raw material for strychnine is produced

Dense forests contain



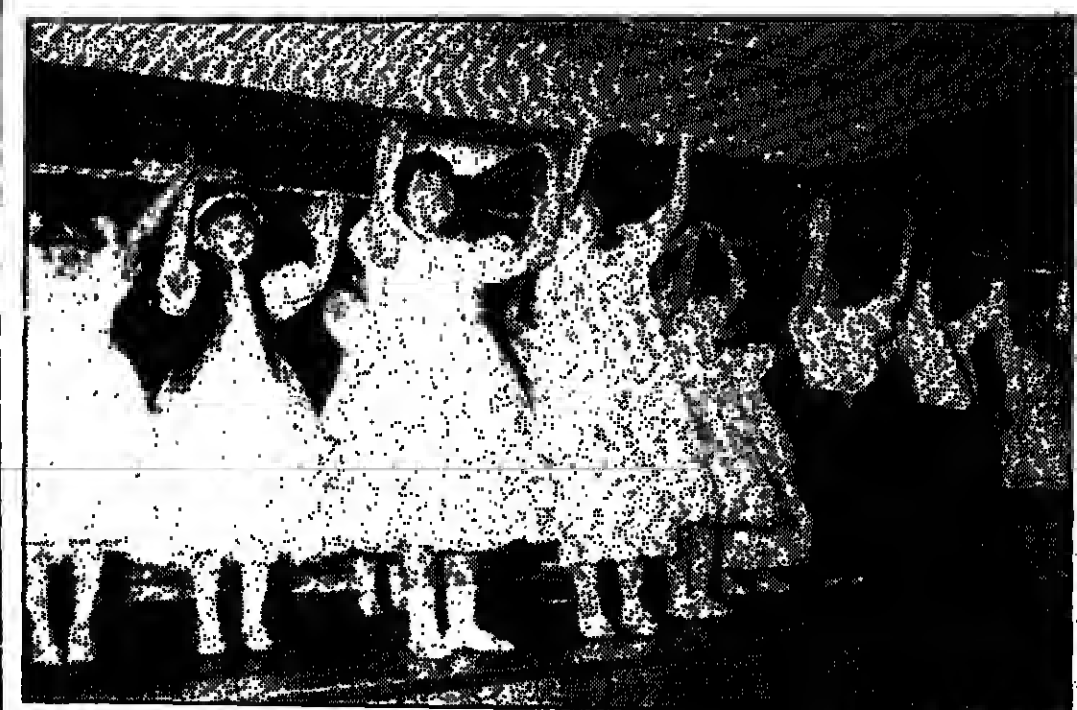
ing trees and plant life of many kinds cover much of

south-east Asia near the equator, where the climate is hot and moist. In regions where there is less rain, the soil is dry and scorched for most of the year. It is in these places that the nuxvomica tree grows from which the poison strychnine is obtained.

The nuxvomica flouri-

shes in India and Indo-China. It is a majestic tree with thick foliage and the trunk can measure 3 to 4 metres in circumference. Its fruits resemble oranges. Buried inside the extremely bitter pulp are from five to eight seeds from which strychnine is extracted.

Arabic and Islamic education programme at UAS



The Arabic Language and Islamic Studies Programme at Universal American School was featured in a special presentation on Monday. Students presented a number of Arabic skits and Islamic recitations. An exhibition of the Holy Quran and a number of Islamic landmarks were displayed as a part of the evening's programme.

We are about to commit a crime

The illusion:

While you are out of the room someone picks up some small object and, with great melodrama, uses it as a "weapon" to pretend to "murder" one of the other people in the party. Now the "murderer" conceals the "weapon" on one of the innocent bystanders and takes a seat to "hide out." You, the super sleuth, come back into the room and, without asking any questions, find the weapon, identify the victim, and correctly accuse the perpetrator of the foul deed!

The preparation:

One of the innocent bystanders is your secret confederate. All your friend has to do is to duplicate the positions of the various characters in a certain order.

The trick:

You set the stage by telling the group that a crime is about to be committed. Then you retire to another room with someone to act as a guard to keep you from peeking. While you are gone the murder weapon is picked, pointed at a victim, hidden on another person, and the murderer retires to the anonymity of the crowd. The more ludicrous the murder weapon, the greater the fun. (Being shot by a key or stabbed by a pillow is real melodrama!) As you are being brought back into the room, your confederate

assumes the same posture as the murderer; placement of feet and hands, and general attitude. Ten seconds later your confederate changes position to match that of the victim. Another ten seconds and the duplication is now of the person hiding the weapon, and a final shift of a hand indicates where on that person the weapon can be found. All this is done as you, wander about the room looking into people's faces and mumbling to yourself like any good deductive detective. Finally, when you have all the information, you produce the weapon, identify the victim, and accuse the murderer. The more dramatic you make the various steps, the greater the fun, and the more amazing your discoveries. I wonder if Columbo started like this?



BUSINESS & FINANCE

'Training schemes should be a matter of choice'

Some in Europe consider workfare option for jobless

LONDON, March 28, (Reuters). European countries worried by stubbornly high unemployment are looking at ways to take more people off dole queues and into training schemes, even if that might mean a touch of compulsion.

Unions and parliamentarians have put governments under pressure to provide training for all the jobless. Suggestions that benefit payments might be made to depend on participation has been considered in the Netherlands and Britain.

Senior politicians in both countries believe it is time for governments, in the words of a leading British conservative, to get tough about "this vast, wasted human resource".

Last month, Britain's Employment Secretary Norman Fowler visited the United States where in around 35 states people are obliged to work or enter training schemes in order to qualify for social security benefits.

Despite 700,000 vacancies in the economy, Britain's jobless

total for January was around 2.7 million of which 1.1 million were long-term, government figures show.

But enforced participation, or 'workfare' as the US system is known, is a political hot potato in Britain identified with the aims of the radical right. The government is anxious to maintain that its schemes are voluntary.

Experience
Fowler has just unveiled a new Adult Training Programme (ATP) which aims to replace all existing programmes and provide 12 months' training and work experience for 600,000 people, roughly half the number deemed long-term unemployed.

Insisting that the programmes are entirely voluntary, Fowler told Reuters in an interview that the £1.4 billion (\$2.6 billion) scheme was 'a major commitment by the government to help unemployed people get back to work'.

"We should provide training for young people up to a higher age than we have in the past and we are working towards doing

that," he said.
"The real change is that as a nation we need to be as professional as we conceivably can. And that means we need a professional and well-trained workforce," he added.

Opponents call it a cut-price attempt to reduce the unemployment figures, using the unemployed as cheap labour while training schemes carry insufficient guarantees of quality.

But Fowler said this was taking the "conspiracy theory of life" a little too far. "We want to train people to fill the vacancies that are there," he said.

Parliamentary opposition spokesmen on employment Michael Meacher told Reuters he believes trainees on any scheme should be paid the union-negotiated rate for work they do. The ATP will provide them with no more than their unemployment benefit plus an allowance for travel and clothes.

He said stricter rules on the right to refuse a place on training schemes and crude system of

assessing benefit qualification meant compulsion in effect existed already.

"Training schemes should be a matter of choice," he told Reuters. "If there is a good training scheme, people will queue up for it."

In many countries governments are introducing tax incentives and schemes to encourage companies to participate in what they hope will become comprehensive training schemes.

Jobs
In France, where employers receive a training subsidy if they take on unqualified young workers, recent legislation now grants them an exemption of up to 100 per cent of social security payments for people aged 16-25 that they take on.

The Netherlands' youth employment guarantee scheme aimed at guaranteeing a job and income for everyone under 21, is being introduced in phases and should eventually guarantee an indefinite series of 6-12 month placements until participants find a lasting job.

The Dutch government has started paying one-off bonuses to unemployed people who accept jobs paying less than they were previously earning.

Local employment authorities can deny benefit to people repeatedly refusing suitable jobs paying as much or more than previous ones they had held.

But the failure of unemployment figures to meet government targets could put pressure on the coalition of liberals and Christian Democrats to consider further measures, a Social Affairs Ministry spokesman said.

It is unlikely, however, that countries suffering the high unemployment of Britain or the Netherlands will be able to afford the kind of schemes run since the 1940s in Sweden, where unemployment runs at around two per cent.

Unemployed people there are given benefit for 300 days' benefit on condition that they take up their legal right to a six-month temporary job or training from an employment office.

Amendment would allow US to get tough with Airbus: Adams

WASHINGTON, March 28, (AP). The omnibus trade bill pending in Congress will include a provision allowing the United States to "get tough" with a European airplane manufacturer which domestic aerospace companies claim receives subsidies and engages in unfair trading practices, a Washington State senator said on Friday.

Democratic Sen. Brock Adams said the provision, which he authored, has been approved by House and Senate negotiators trying to iron out final details of the trade bill.

"This amendment is designed to stop the international consortium supporting Airbus Industries from using unfair trading practices in the United States," Adams said.

Relief
Airbus, a consortium of aerospace companies in France, West Germany, Britain, Spain, Belgium and the Netherlands, is the world's second-largest manufacturer of commercial airplanes with about 35 per cent of the market.

US rival Boeing Co., based in Seattle, Washington, has bet-

ween 55 per cent and 60 per cent of the market.

Adams said his amendment would expand coverage of existing "countervailing duty laws" to include countries such as those supporting Airbus.

At present, Adams said, US companies can seek relief from unfair trading practices when their competition is subsidised by just one country, but not when the subsidies are coming from a consortium of foreign countries.

"Boeing can successfully compete with Airbus, but not if Airbus is out playing by the rules and getting huge subsidies from foreign governments," Adams said.

Airbus officials have consistently denied that the company was receiving government subsidies or engaged in unfair trading practices.

The countervailing duty laws allow domestic manufacturers to ask the US government to impose a duty equal to the amount of foreign subsidy for a product.

"Adoption of the amendment will help ensure a fair arena for competition between Boeing and Airbus," Adams said.

China and Taiwan keen to expand trade ties

HONG KONG, March 28, (AP). The political incentives exchanged between China and Taiwan for decades now can barely be heard over the new chorus singing out for cooperation.

China's modernisation programme and the easing of Taiwan's no-contact policy with the mainland communists have businessmen scrambling to trade across the Taiwan straits, a development that could profoundly influence future relations.

"How can you help but find that relations will just keep on rolling after this?" said Byron Weng, a political analyst at the Chinese University of Hong Kong. "To be able to do business... necessarily leads to cooperation," he said.

After losing a civil war to the communists on the mainland and fleeing to Taiwan in 1949, the nationalist government strictly prohibited Taiwanese from doing business with the Communists. Anyone caught doing so was considered a traitor.

Contact
But the nationalists, while continuing to reject official contact with the mainland, recently eased restrictions on people-to-people ties and are tolerating a flourishing indirect trade between Taiwan and China.

Much of that business comes through this British colony on the southeastern China coast, where last year indirect trade between Taiwan and China totalled 11.8 billion Hong Kong dollars (\$1.51 billion), up 58.7 per cent from 1986.

Taiwan exports accounted for 9.6 billion Hong Kong dollars (\$1.23 billion) of the total trade and consisted primarily of textiles, machinery and electrical appliances, according to Hong Kong government trade statistics.

A group of Hong Kong Chinese businessmen with ties to the nationalist government recently opened the Taiwan trade centre in Hong Kong to facilitate trade relations. About 150 Taiwan companies display exhibits to entice mainland Chinese companies to buy everything from machine tools to cosmetics.

Foodstuffs
In the future we will open the market to China, said the centre's director, Lee N. Hwai, "so I think this is the bridge."

Signs of the increased business ties are readily apparent in China and Taiwan.

Taiwan markets openly display mainland Chinese medical herbs, ginseng, dates, walnuts and other foodstuffs. Prices have dropped drastically since last year, when the nationalists per-

mitted imports through third countries of several new mainland items.

Mouthwatering mainland specialties such as dried duck from Nanking, salted fish from Canton and hams from Jinhua in Zhejiang province also are available in Taiwan.

In China, tours of factories often reveal a Taiwan connection.

The state-of-the-art haide polyester plant on Hainan Island uses polyester chips from Taiwan. Shenzhen Plastics Corp. in Guangdong province boasts that investment from an American-Taiwanese resulted in favourable treatment for the company from Chinese authorities.

Plan
The mass-circulation United Daily News of Taiwan recently reported an increasing number of companies have invested or plan to invest in China in textiles, footwear, fertilizers, chemicals and food processing. Such activity remains illegal, however, so most Taiwan investment in the mainland is done through companies in third countries.

A Chinese official this month disclosed plans to set up a work-processing zone for Taiwan companies that would receive preferential treatment. The location is slated for southern Guan-

gdong province on the Chinese coast across from Taiwan.

Many potential investors are believed to be among the Taiwanese who have visited the mainland since late last year, when the nationalists ended a ban on travel to China to allow family reunions.

Claim
The nationalist and communist government each claim to be the legitimate ruler of mainland China and Taiwan and to be committed to reunification under its own terms. Trade could have far-reaching implications for future relations if the two economies become increasingly intertwined.

Weng, the political analyst, notes that China might use contacts with Taiwan businessmen as a way to reach "people who are out in the political field."

The nationalists, ever wary of their Communist arch-enemies, have ruled out direct trade for the time being.

"We don't have legal, logical channels to resolve any disputes arising from direct trade," Taiwan Premier Yu Kuo-Kwa said recently.

"Too much direct trade will have a negative impact on our efforts to restructure our industries," he added. "We want our companies to produce more sophisticated products but the mainland market is only a market for low-end consumer goods."

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Gloomy forecast for Swiss banks

This is the second part of the article "Swiss banks see tougher times ahead." The first appeared in the Arab Times on Monday, March 28.

But the most significant step was taken by Canada, which largely abolished the traditional legal division between commercial banks and investment banks.

The pace of financial innovation had slowed down appreciably even before the stock market crash of October 19. It was proving difficult to come up with genuine innovations, and instruments that were too complicated did not find favour with investors. Further pressure on margins was evidence of continuing tough competition.

These developments also had repercussions on Switzerland and Swiss-based banks. In addition, the introduction of Swiss Interbank Clearing (SIC) represented a milestone, enabling the credit institutions to have on-line access to more efficient cash managements.

In order to make the Swiss financial centre more attractive, new types of bond issues were developed or imported from other markets, and contentious stock exchange trading was extended to paper of important foreign companies.

With the renewal for a further five years of the 1977 agreement on the observance of due diligence, the Swiss banks now have at their disposal a more refined instrument to combat abuse of banking secrecy. The same applies to the decision to make insider trading a punishable offence under Swiss law.

Loss
The Swiss banks' on-balance-sheet business was characterised by narrower interest rate margins in 1987. The resultant loss of earnings was not fully compensated for by the increase in the volume of lendings.

September 1987; this was 7.1 per cent higher than at end-December 1986.

The average proportion of foreign assets to total assets (39.7 per cent) and that of foreign liabilities to total liabilities (30.1 per cent) were virtually unchanged.

Total loans rose by 7.3 per cent to Sfr 484.3 billion, a considerably faster rate of growth than in the corresponding period of 1986 (3 per cent). The increase was particularly marked in the case of domestic lending business, which grew by roughly 6 per cent, where foreign lendings expanded by only about 1 per cent, due chiefly to exchange rate movements.

After several years of expanding new issue activity, the primary market in Switzerland generally paused for breath in 1987. Bond issues for domestic borrowers totalled just under Sfr 12 billion, 8 per cent less than in the previous year.

Thanks to their good financial position, public sector borrowers were able to achieve a further reduction in new borrowing.

Offerings
The banks and mortgage bond institutions — the most prolific issuers — also had less recourse to the capital market. A wave of equity-linked issues up to mid-October raised the market share of such paper to justify over one-fifth of total new borrowing. Terms of issue for straight bonds were essentially unchanged in the first nine months of the year, but in the final quarter coupons had to be raised slightly on balance.

The range of debt instruments on offer was extended by the introduction of a zero coupon bond, an issue with put options on gold and on offering with share index warrants.

The volume of equity securities (shares and participation certificates) marketed through rights issues and public offerings totalled just over Sfr 5 billion, following the record figure of over Sfr 6 billion in 1986.

Capital exports in the form of public bond issues and private placements declined by 11 per cent to just over Sfr 38 billion in

1987; more than a third of the total consisted of equity-linked issues (convertible and warrant bonds).

Although terms of issue were initially eased slightly, coupon levels at the end of the year were marginally higher than at the beginning.

To the Euromarket, the volume of new issues came to approximately \$155 billion — the second-highest figure so far recorded and one-seventh less than in 1986.

With interest rates rising for much of the year and the currency markets experiencing some very bumpy patches, there were fewer floatations of dollar bonds, whose share in total issue volume declined further (from 63 per cent to about 43 per cent).

By contrast, yen bonds again captured a bigger share of the market (16 per cent). Events on the foreign exchange markets last year were very much influenced by the endeavours of the major industrial countries (the G7), to strengthen their cooperation on currency policy.

The Louvre accord on February 22, 1987, which — albeit rather vaguely — expressed the participants' resolve to reduce international economic imbalances and stabilise exchange rates, was for a time the crucial factor in restoring a degree of calm to the markets. But market operators were extremely uncertain about how far-reaching and how sustainable this agreement actually was.

In view of the central banks' readiness to intervene and the fact that they did not do so in one direction only, it seemed reasonable to suppose that they had agreed on target ranges.

However, the central banks were wise enough to keep silent about that and to lull the markets into a sense of security, thereby avoiding speculative excesses.

This approach was all the more justified as past exchange rate systems failed in the end mainly because a political and economic consensus was lacking.

Concluded

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Spending gives new fillip to Kuwait economy

THE chairman of Burgan Bank, Sheikh Ahmed Al Sabah, has said that government spending was the main support of the national economy.

He told a local newspaper that the government had allocated KD3.15 billion for spending this year and this amount is 10 per cent more than that of the 1986-87 fiscal year.

He added that this would achieve a noticeable growth in economic activity, especially in the construction and commercial sectors.

Activity

He expected some economic activity next year because the local banks had settled the matter of loans given to debtors. This would allow local banks to invest their funds in the local market, he added.

Sheikh Ahmed said that share prices at international stock exchanges had re-

ached a level below which they could not fall and this meant that the prices would begin going up, especially if the US economy becomes stable this year. The international markets will therefore offer many investment opportunities to Kuwaiti banks this year.

Commenting on the policy of granting loans by local banks, he said that regulations and methods followed by local banks in granting loans to customers were known.

Debts

He said that the crisis of difficult debts in local banks was mostly due to the reduction and fall in value of assets pledged against loans. He did not expect banks to follow a stricter policy in granting loans.

He denied that the government interfered in the affairs of local banks, adding that the Kuwaiti economy was not a

guided one. He said that the control exercised by the Central Bank on the activities of local banks was normal and similar to that in all advanced countries.

He said there was no need to merge banks, especially after solving the problem of difficult debts.

Growth

Meanwhile, Kuwait Central Bank's Monthly Monetary review has said that at the end of January 1988 local money supply totalled KD4,832 million, representing an increase of KD58 million over the previous month.

The monthly newsletter, issued yesterday, attributed the increase to developments in money supply components, as both time and savings deposits recorded a rise of 2.3 per cent, whereas sight deposits declined by 3.4 per cent.

At the end of January, the review said, the aggregate balance sheet of commer-

cial banks totalled KD10,423 million, representing a growth of 5.3 per cent over the previous month.

This growth was represented in several items, namely the claims of commercial banks on residents (government and private) which grew by KD107 million over their levels at the end of the previous month, according to the review.

While noting that the increase in commercial banks' claims on the government was concentrated in their holdings of public debt instruments, the newsletter said this has led their balance to reach KD550 million, thus reflecting the commercial banks' due interest in these instruments.

The Central Bank issued treasury bills amounting to KD120 million, bringing the total issues of public debt instruments until the end of January 1988 to KD748 million.

Traders told to restrain business with South Africa

TOKYO, March 28, (Reuters): Japan's minister of trade and industry asked the presidents of six major trading houses today to restrain trade with South Africa, a ministry spokesman said.

In a meeting with the six presidents, Hajime Tamura urged them to consider increasing international criticism of Japan and to restrain trade with South Africa, the spokesman said.

Japan became South Africa's biggest trading partner last year, a development that has embarrassed some government officials recently, political analysts said.

Imports

Japanese steel industry sources, meanwhile, said today the industry would gradually cut its imports of steel ores and coking coal from South Africa.

"We are going to keep distancing ourselves from South Africa as we have been," one industry source said.

"Steel mills have been cutting down their imports, even before the Japanese government asked industries for self-restraint on South African trading," he added.

Five per cent of Japan's iron ore imports come from South Africa, totalling an estimated 5.5 million tonnes in fiscal 1987-88, ending March 31, industry sources said.

The industry projects that imports in fiscal 1988-89 will decline by 100,000 tonnes.

Coking coal imports from South Africa in fiscal 1987-88 are expected to exceed four million tonnes, representing around seven per cent of total Japanese demand, but are projected to slip below that figure the following year, industry sources said.

Officials from the Ministry of International Trade and Industry and the Japan Iron and Steel Federation said they had not made a special request to the industry to cut imports from South Africa.

WORLD STOCK ROUNDUP

SYDNEY, March 28, (Reuters): Shares closed sharply weaker with most buyers cautious ahead of the opening of offshore markets. By close of trade the All Ordinaries Index had fallen a solid 44.5 points to 1380.2.

TOKYO — Shares closed sharply higher in active trade as aggressive buying marked the start of the stock market fiscal year. The Nikkei Index surged 301.99 points to 25,622.71.

HONG KONG — Share prices closed lower on concern about falling prices on Wall Street. The Hang Seng index fell 35.15 to 2,466.78.

SINGAPORE — Prices closed sharply lower across the board on selling pressure by nervous investors. The Straits Times Industrial index fell 20.38 to 925.22.

BOMBAY — Prices slid further on unabated speculative selling despite the imposition of daily deposit margins of 20 per cent on 18 leading shares last week. Tata Steel fell 6.25 rupees to 635.

FRANKFURT — Shares ended two to three per cent lower after a similar fall on Friday, because of the weaker dollar and lower Wall Street stocks. The Commerzbank index, set at mid-session, fell 38.1 to 1,341.8.

ZURICH — Prices closed sharply lower across the board in moderate trading as profit-taking set in following last week's negative trend on Wall Street. The All-Share Swiss index fell 36.2 to 793.5.

PARIS — Shares ended the continuous session lower in the absence of any significant investor interest.

LONDON — Prices continued sharply lower in late trading but showed little immediate reaction to an early fall on Wall Street. At 1445 GMT the FTSE 100 index was down 26.5 to 1,741.3.

NEW YORK — Stocks remained broadly lower in late morning as they had been since the opening. The Dow 30 was down nine at 1,970.

Gold price rises

Dollar sags, shares under pressure

LONDON, March 28, (Reuters): The dollar fell today depressing share prices on almost all major markets in what some dealers worried could become a cycle feeding on itself.

Wall Street, after steep falls on Thursday and Friday, headed down again today, with the Dow Jones industrial average losing 11.11 points to 1,967.84 in the first half hour of trading.

London's FTSE index of 100 blue chip shares fell as much as 27.9 points, or 1.6 per cent, to a mid-afternoon low of 1,740.

Tokyo, the world's biggest market, was the exception. The Nikkei Average closed today 301.99 points up at 25,622.71 before European business began after recouping almost all of a 305 point loss in a half-day session on Saturday.

Plunged

Some Swiss blue chip shares plunged as much as nine per cent and the Zurich, Paris, Amsterdam and Milan bourses each closed more than three per cent lower.

But trading in most markets

was light.

"There is no selling off... but just a technical correction," a Zurich stockbroker said.

The dollar fell about 1.5 pence and more than a yen to lows of 1.66 West German marks and 124 yen. It shed two cents in trade at \$1.8560 to the British pound sterling.

"Weakness in the dollar is now beginning to feed off the DJ (Dow Jones industrial average)," said a London currency dealer.

Imports

Some worry that a weakening dollar will lead foreign investors to sell their US holdings, and others that it could rekindle inflation by boosting the price of imports.

The price of gold, a traditional hedge when investors fear inflation will erode the value of their holdings of cash or securities, rose. Bullion was fixed in London this afternoon at \$453.90 an ounce, up more than \$3.50 from Friday's close.

Oil prices also rose, with Brent crude oil from the North Sea selling for \$15.85 a barrel for

delivery in May, up 30 cents.

While investors fear a weak dollar would be inflationary in the United States, they also worry that it might price European and Asian companies' products off the US market.

Pressure

Most expect the dollar to remain under pressure.

"The market is a little bit afraid of the central banks but a crisis atmosphere has built up again and people do not feel comfortable about buying dollars," said a West German dealer.

"This is beginning to look like September and October of last year again," he said.

West German shares fell two to three per cent for the second day running with the Faz index falling 11.95 points, or 2.6 per cent, to 440.92.

Fell

The Paris bourse indicator closed 3.17 per cent lower, while Milan's MIB index fell 3.16 per cent. Amsterdam's CBS All Share index fell 2.7 points, or 3.3 per cent, to 80.0.

In Zurich, some blue chips

East and West agree to fight Third World poverty

NEW DELHI, March 28, (Reuters): The Soviet Union told a four-day meeting on poverty, development and survival the East bloc would join with the West to fight Third World poverty.

Poverty brought East and the West together in rare détente at an international conference that ended here on Monday though the developing world accused the West of paternalism.

Chance

"There seems to be a blurring of economic ideologies," said Maurice Williams, secretary-general of the Society for International Development (Sid). About 1,500 delegates from 65 countries attended the conference organised by Sid, a non-governmental organisation funded by several UN groups.

The conference was the first attended by the Soviet Union and Moscow took the chance to announce stepped up aid to the Third World, including South-East Asian nations. Delegation lead Vladimir Kboros said increased aid would come from lower military spending under his country's new disarmament policy.

Disarmament dominated the final day.

Inga Thorsson of Sweden made an impassioned plea for lower spending, saying that unless military development slowed "there will be no development, no human life worth living."

The conference also threw up controversies over women's rights and measuring poverty with economic indicators.

Prince Claus of the Netherlands stressed economic growth, saying production and exports must be increased to generate resources needed for an acceptable social policy.

Enrique Iglesias of Uruguay said economic growth and self-reliance was still seen as a yardstick.

Extreme

"It is a tricky issue. We in Latin America recognise our own responsibilities on the debt situation, but it should not mean that because our per capita income is higher than Africa's, we do not have areas of comparable poverty."

The new Sid president said economic growth was just one criterion. Distribution of wealth was equally important in measuring the standard of living.

stocks fell as much as nine per cent, while the All Share Swiss index dropped 36.2 points or 4.3 per cent to 793.5.

Belgian, Spanish, Swedish and Finnish shares also fell.

In Asian trading, the Bank of Japan intervened today, buying dollars to prop the US currency's value.

"Dealers seem to think the only thing holding the dollar up is the BoJ," said Hitoshi Yoshida, a dealer with Irving Trust Co. in Tokyo.

The dollar has not been as low against the yen since January 5, when it started bouncing back from record lows hit the day before on heavy Central Bank buying.

Strong

"The yen is the place to be. The dollar is not," a Frankfurt dealer said, noting that the Japanese economy is strong, and the Tokyo stock market firm.

In Hong Kong, the Hang Seng index dropped 35.15 points to 2,466.78, while Sydney's All Ordinaries index plunged 44.5 points to 1,380.2.

Opec meeting date fixed

Crude prices steady

VIENNA, March 28, (Reuters): Opec said today its price committee would meet here on April 9, but oil traders were unsure whether the organisation would be able to reduce the current glut on world oil markets.

The setting of a fixed date for the committee meeting, called last week by Opec president Rikman Lukman of Nigeria, had little impact on oil markets, where prices edged higher.

Meanwhile, in Nicosia, the authoritative Middle East Economic Survey (MEES) newsletter said the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries members were pumping as much as 20 per cent more oil than they had agreed last December.

Production

"Some Opec watchers reckon that Opec production in March, boosted by a bounce back to the 800,000 bpd (barrels per day) mark in Abu Dhabi among other factors, has probably edged up to something like 18 million bpd," MEES said.

Opec members, excluding

Iraq, agreed in December to limit themselves to pumping a total of 15.06 million barrels a day in the first half of 1988 as a key part of their campaign to keep their reference price for oil at \$18 a barrel.

But the glut has pushed oil prices far below that level, and today, Brent crude oil from the North Sea, a worldwide benchmark, was selling at \$15.75 a barrel for May delivery, down 10 cents from the day's high.

Silks

The slide worried Opec, which called a meeting of the five-member price committee to review last year's pricing and production agreement.

The committee comprises Saudi Arabia, the biggest Opec producer, as well as Indonesia, Nigeria, Algeria and Venezuela.

The April meeting will review the performance over the first quarter of 1988 and that of the agreement with a view of deciding what action, if any, requires to be taken to further strengthen the market," Lukman, who is

Nigeria's Oil Minister, said.

MEES said Opec's price committee has no powers to decide on output cuts and added that some Opec members opposed holding a full ministerial conference before the next regular one in June.

It said the Muslim holy month of Ramadan, due to start in the second half of April, would make it impossible to hold a meeting before the second half of May, and by that time the ministerial conference, set for June 8, would be approaching.

"What is actually expected is that the price committee will go through a pro forma exercise of reviewing results of the first quarter, particularly the auditors report detailing member states' production in January," MEES said.

In Jakarta, Indonesian Oil Minister Ginandjar Kartasasmita said the committee meeting was scheduled for one day but could be extended if necessary.

Economists can be counted on to prefer counting

LONDON, March 28, (Reuters): If you can't count it, many economists say it isn't worth looking at.

But a growing number argue that, while it is hard to come up with the numbers, economists should be looking at such issues as the environment, health and defence.

Especially now, as governments around the world fret about how to afford the cost of doing anything in any of these areas.

There are few easy answers.

"How do you evaluate the benefits of spending money on extra missiles in extra silos vis a vis spending money on relieving AIDS sufferers or on building new dams?" said Gordon Hughes, chairman of the Economics Department at Edinburgh University.

Problem

The problem, economists say, is that, while costs are fairly easy to determine benefits are not.

Governments, for example, know how much they pay their soldiers or police. But it is far harder to evaluate what they get for their money.

"You can't say you've bought so many pounds worth of protection by paying a soldier," said Paul Ekins, an economist at Bradford University in northern England.

"You can measure inputs, but output is harder," he added.

In Britain, the government is looking at one difficult area —

education — with controversial new tests and legislation setting new national curriculum standards.

It is not an attempt to put a price on schooling, but the aim is to measure how well children are taught.

Several US states have moved in this area, too, setting new minimum standards and tests. Some officials want to link teachers' pay with students' performance.

Governments worry about what they are buying with the money they spend on health care, especially as demand for medicine and hospitals seems to outpace population growth.

Safety

For years, most economists said the way to assess the cost of accidents, illness or death — and so to put a price tag on a safe and healthy life — was to look at losses of earnings.

But some said health and safety were more valuable than that. And the loss-of-earnings approach ignores the value of health to the rising number of elderly, retired people in industrial nations while, lawyers argue, it is at best guesswork in those cases which involve injuries to small children.

Approach

So economists have been trying new approaches, including opinion poll-style surveys and market research samplings on people's interest in, for example, extra car safety features.

So how much is good health worth?

Or an unpolluted earth?

"The basic approach is to ask what people would pay to have the thing," said Allan Marin, of the London School of Economics.

But that, he said, is a significantly different question than economists usually ask about prices. Normally, they can look at markets, demand and supply to know what a price is, not what it might be.

"The theory is there, but where it gets intriguing is figuring out how to apply it," he said. "The basic approach is to find a market that measures something similar and work from that."

People, for instance, put a price on their time. And, economists say, it can be measured by looking at things from their wages to their willingness to travel by more expensive means — by air rather, say, instead of railway.

Value

"If you say that a wilderness has value, one way you impute it is to look at how willing people have been to go and spend time there," said Marin.

"You can look at how far people have travelled to go, how long they have spent there and so forth," he added. "It is one way of knowing how valuable people feel it is to have the option of having a wilderness, and differs from looking at how valuable it is to use one."

Indonesia denies offering oil discount to Japan

JAKARTA, March 28, (Reuters): Indonesia denied today it was offering oil to Japan below the official Opec price.

"That's not true," said Energy Minister Ginandjar Kartasasmita when asked to comment on reports from Tokyo that Indonesia's state oil company Pertamina had approved price discounts for Japanese buyers of \$1.56 a barrel.

Pertamina is negotiating a new one-year contract with Japanese buyers, while holding separate discussions on sales from April and May. Japan is Indonesia's main oil market and has been hit by discounts from other suppliers.

Sales

Ginandjar said April sales had been agreed at \$17.56 for its main brand Minas crude, the level set by the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (Opec).

"After that we will negotiate for May, and then we will see the situation in Vienna (after the Opec price committee meeting)." Japanese trade sources said Pertamina was offering Minas at \$16.00 for April shipment and other crudes were also being discounted.

Ginandjar, who took over as Mines and Energy Minister last week, said on Friday Indonesia would not sell oil below official prices.

Duty

Outgoing Energy Minister Suharto repeated a warning that Indonesia would not feel bound by Opec's December output and pricing agreement if other members violated it by offering discounts.

Subroto will act as adviser on oil affairs to his successor Ginandjar Kartasasmita.

He told Opec today that he felt it his duty to assist the Indonesian government, in particular the Minister of Energy and Mines, with advice on matters regarding oil.

Oil prices will increase, says Omani minister

MUSCAT, Oman, March 28, (AP): Omani Oil Minister Saeed Al Shanfari said today he was confident oil prices would increase, particularly after recent consultations with producers outside the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries.

Shanfari, in a statement to the official Oman News Agency, did not elaborate on the exact basis for his expectation, but he said that "portents of such an improvement have appeared in recent days."

"It's almost certain prices will increase, especially after the latest consultations among the oil producers outside Opec," he said.

Shanfari noted "good intentions" among non-Opec and Opec nations would help maintain stable and firm oil prices.

Oman, which is not a member of the 13-nation Opec, recently participated in a meeting of eight major non-Opec nations at a conference held in London.

Shanfari said Opec nations will attempt to prevent a serious price collapse and hope to avoid declines similar to that recorded in 1986 when world oil prices fell below \$10 a barrel.

Opec now is struggling to maintain its benchmark price of \$18 per barrel.

Alternative energy technologies suffer setback, says UN study

UNITED NATIONS, March 28, (Opecna): Development efforts for a number of alternative technologies have been set back by unfavourable economic climate and lack of competitive results resulting from lower hydrocarbon prices, according to a UN report to be presented here later today.

The report, by UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar, will come before the committee on the development and utilisation of new and renewable sources of energy open to participation of all member states.

The committee will review global energy trends and assess progress made in the implementation of the Nairobi programme of action adopted by the UN energy conference held in Kenya in 1981.

The UN secretary-general's report noted that oil prices continued to be at levels comparable in real terms to those prevailing in the early 1970s.

It pointed out that low prices and "resulting reduced exploration activity" were constraints on hydrocarbon reserves.

According to the report, the rural sector in developing countries remained largely disconnected from international energy markets because of its high reliance on traditional sources.

It said there had been a slow increase in the development and utilisation of new and renewable sources of energy whose annual contribution represented over 13 per cent of total energy supplies.

Traditional sources of energy, including fuelwood, charcoal, draught animal power and agricultural and animal residues, represented the most widely used renewable energy sources. The report said, adding that more than two billion people in the developing world depended on fuelwood and charcoal for household energy.

It said the consumption of fuelwood greatly outstripped sustainable production, leading in different regions to soil depletion, desertification and decreased crop returns.

In order to better balance the supply and demand of fuelwood in the developing world, it is estimated that some 50 million hectares of trees will have to be planted by the end of the century.

According to the report, increased woodlot planting, widespread use of better forest management techniques and reduced firewood demand resulting from better conversion, were needed.

The New Zealand index is not calculated until the end of the day but all leading shares were sharply lower in response to the Dow's 44.92 point decline to 1,978.95 on Friday. It was the first close below 2,000 since February 18.

The US dollar meanwhile fell in New Zealand to 124.50 yen from 125.05 at the opening after closing at 125.15 in New York on Friday.

"We are seeing a continuation of the weaker trend in New York," one dealer said. Another said Central Bank support was expected to limit further falls by the US unit.

Japanese products

KUWAIT imported a large number of products from Japan during 1980 to 1984, according to a local newspaper said.

It added that Kuwait imported video cassette recorders worth about KD76 million, refrigerators about KD35 million, washing machines about KD18 million, tape recorders and radios about KD58 million, air conditioners about KD66 million and fans about KD9 million.

New Zealand shares drop

WELLINGTON, March 28, (Reuters): Leading shares fell sharply in early trading on the New Zealand stock market, the first in open in the world each day, as traders nervously assessed Wall Street's nosedive on Friday.

Dealers said buyers were waiting to see what the Dow Jones index did in the next few days. "If the Dow moves up overnight then the whole ball game changes again," one broker said.

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SHIPPING MOVEMENTS

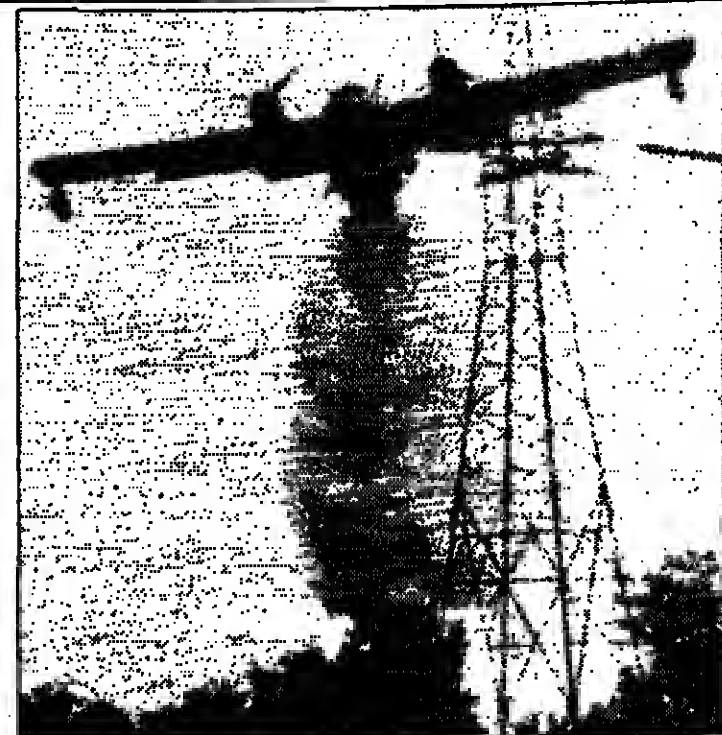
SHIPS DISCHARGING AT SHUWAIKH PORT AS ON 27.3.88				
B.No.	Ships Name	Agent	Tel. No.	
3	Barwil Express	Alghanim	4843150	
4	Ibn Shuhaid	KSA	4843150	
5	Ibn Malik	KSA	4843150	
6	Zarka	Gh N Q	4747815	
17	Azalca			
SHIPS EXPECTED AT SHUWAIKH PORT				



HELMETED and masked leftist Japanese students raise their fists as a leader chants slogans protesting an airport expansion project during a rally near the new Tokyo International Airport at Narita. (Reuter wirephoto)



LITTLE cellists play a classical French ballad during the 1988 Suzuki Method National Concert at the Budoken Hall in Tokyo. Two hundred children from all over the country gathered to show their talents in the large-scale concert. (Reuter wirephoto)



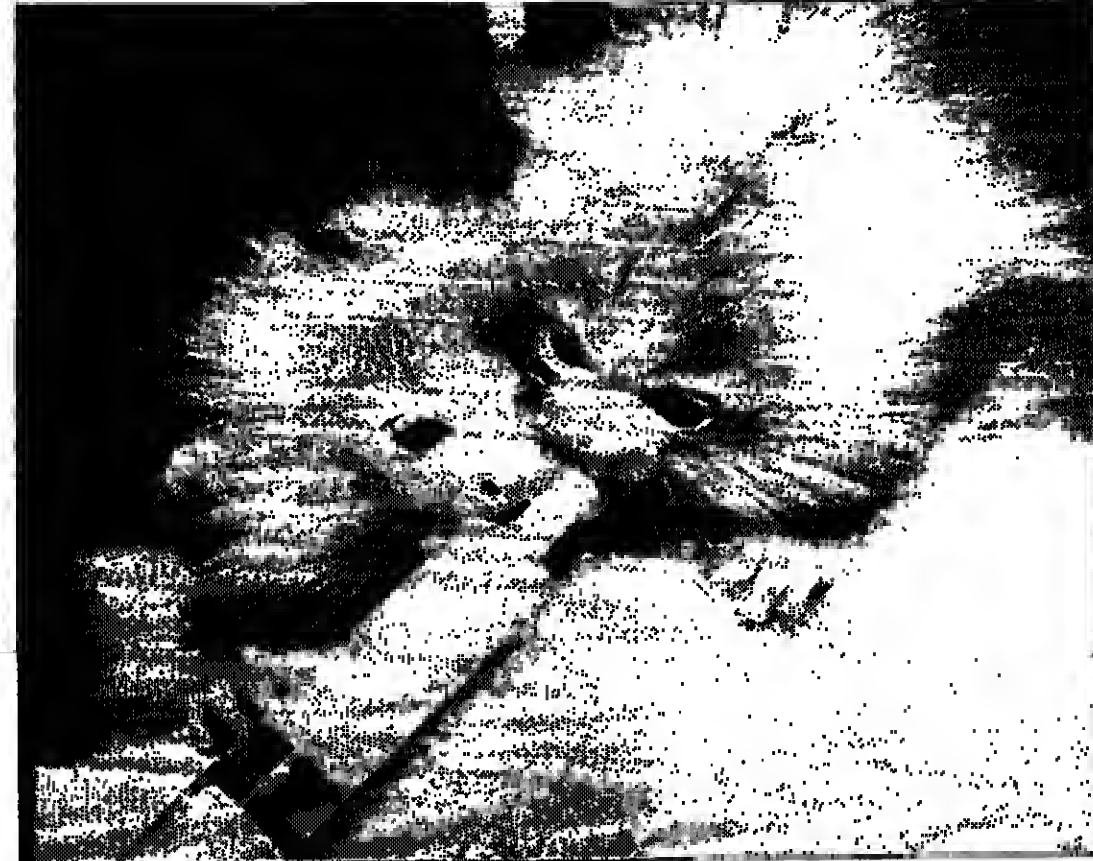
A WATER bomber drops its load of fire retardant over high tension wires and burning trees during violent firestorms in Corsica. Firemen who suspect arson, battled to contain the fires yesterday. (Reuter wirephoto)



THE Palm Sunday procession leaves La Merced church in Antigua, as Easter week begins. Antigua, the colonial capital of Guatemala, is famous throughout Central America for its Easter processions and sawdust street decorations. (Reuter wirephoto)



EMILY ZIMA, 5, of Washington D.C., is captivated by a kite resembling a flying man. The kite, named Icarus, was made by Martin Lester of Great Britain and was one of many sent soaring by gusty spring winds at the 22nd annual Smithsonian Kite Festival held at the Washington Monument grounds. (Reuter wirephoto)



ONE-MONTH-OLD brother and sister Geeles (left) and Martine are two of the only 400 monkeys of the Golden Lion Tamarin type left worldwide. The Brazilian breed faces extinction due to deforestation. The two are being reared in the Netherlands before being released in a reserve in Brazil. (Reuter wirephoto)



AN Ethiopian child clings to the back of British actress Audrey Hepburn during her visit to the famine-hit regions of Ethiopia. Hepburn who visited there as a special ambassador of the United Nations appealed for more aid for the drought-stricken areas of Ethiopia on her return to the UK yesterday. (Reuter wirephoto)



A FORMER Contra rebel prisoner smiles as he walks away with his family after being released from the Managua prison along with 99 other prisoners after signing of a peace agreement between the Contras and Nicaragua's Sandinista government. (Reuter wirephoto)



BRITISH cricketer Ian Botham poses with an elephant. Botham and three elephants will attempt to retrace the route across the Alps taken by Hannibal, to raise funds for leukemia research. (Reuter wirephoto)



BOMB disposal experts pose with the fuse of the British World War Two, 1,000 lb (500 kg) bomb. Some 7,000 residents of central Rotterdam were evacuated and 14,000 ordered to stay indoors during the operation on Sunday. (Reuter wirephoto)



CREWMEN on board the Danish supertanker 'Kerama Maersk' hose water onto blazing oil pouring out of a hole in the hull of the ship which was set on fire during an Iranian attack in the southern Gulf yesterday. (Reuter wirephoto)



FARMERS and firefighters force a cow to follow them through the floods of the Danube in the little Bavarian village of Niederachdorf, West Germany. About 120 cows had to be evacuated after a dam broke near the village on Sunday. (Reuter wirephoto)



MOSCOW'S strong spring sun produces this silhouette of a Soviet worker repairing the power supply lines. (Reuter wirephoto)

ARAB TIMES Classifieds

ACCOMMODATION

Available

FARWANIYA, in front of the post office. One room for bachelors/spinsters. Bus routes 21, 22, 39, 41. Rent KD 55. Tele. Sani 2415301 ext. 32011, 8 am - 1 pm, 4834429, 3-6 pm. (AT3-41591-2)

IN Salmiya, Amman Street. One room for one bachelor to share with an Indian family. Tele. Canute, 5615216, 4-6 pm only. (AT4-41619-2)

SALWA (behind Irani shop), House No. 196, Block No. 7. One big room with water, electricity and kitchen facilities for a family/bachelors to share with an Indian family. Bus routes 34, 102. Rent KD50. Tele. 5611243. (AT3-41594-3)

IN Salmiya, behind Mercedes showroom, for Indian bachelors. Bus routes 15, 30, 519, 24, 19. Tele. Dayanend, or Lobo, 5749750, 4-9:30 pm. (AT4-41622-3)

For Rent

QADSIYA, Katta 3, Street No. 35, Bldg No. 15. One full top floor of villa consisting of 4 rooms, 4 bathrooms, 1 big saloon and 2 kitchens. Tele. 2555128. (AT4-41609-3)

ASMA furnished flat in e villa, 2 rooms, kitchen, bathroom, CAC, separate entrance. Suitable for 2 people. Tele. 5614852. (AT5-41624-3)

SINGLE bedroom flat for sale, rent KD140, TV, video, wall unit, fridge, dining table with 6 chairs, double bed, wardrobe, oven, washing machine, plus more. Tele. 5630034. (AT4-41626-2)

IN Salwa, Block 1, behind the Indian School. Deluxe CAC flat, 3 bedrooms, 1 dining room, 2 sitting rooms, 3 bathrooms, 1 kitchen, CAC. Rent KD400. Tele. Mobarak, 5657717, 5629032, 9079111. (AT2-41576-3)

SALWA, deluxe, CAC, brand new apartment comprising 3 bedrooms, living room, dining room, 2 bathrooms and large fitted kitchen. Rent KD300. Tele. 5391720/5382783. (AT4-41604-6)

JABRIYA, 1/2 villa, excellent location, 3 bedrooms, one master bedroom, 2-1/2 bathrooms, living and dining rooms, with or without swimming pool. Tele. 5339280, 5339281. (AT5-41535-6)

IN Jabriya, near Hadi Hospital. Central AC, tel. line, two spacious bedrooms, large sitting and dining rooms, two bathrooms, kitchen and balcony. Tele. 5313293, 5334430, 5-8 pm. (AT1-41580-3)

Wanted

SALMIYA, near the Indian school, a single room with tele facilities for an elderly teacher. Tele. Mr Kurup, 5617151. (AT4-41610-3)

FOR SALE

Furniture

SOFASET KD 35, Spanish sofa set KD 230, sofa bed KD 35, dining table, chairs, folding table. Tele. Rasem Kamal, 2641624, 5-8 pm. (AT4-41607-3)

Boats

VULCAN 17 ft racing dinghy, with full gear, life jackets, trapeze, spinaker and 4 HP. Evinrude outboard. GRP construction. Ideal for local conditions. Highest offer. Tele. Dunford, 5314737. (AT4-41617-3)

Computers

IBM compatible system with 2 floppy disks, turbo mode mouse monitor MD7 with EGA card and a lot of diskettes. Newly purchased KD450 ono. Tele. Miahel, 2523542. (AT2-41582-3)

Cars

NISSAN Skyline, 1973, manual, 12 months insured, new tyres, recent re-spray, very reliable. KD195 cash. Tele. Mr Ashian, 4878197 after 1 pm. (AT2-41579-3)

NISSAN Laurel, 1982 model, green with AC and heater, well maintained in show room condition. KD650. Tele. Wazeer, 5723573. (AT2-41574-3)

CHEVROLET Impala 79 model, AC, automatic, green. In good condition. KD450 cash. Tele. Mr Siva, 5619758/9/805, 7 am - 8 pm. (AT4-41504-6)

NISSAN Stanza, hatchback 1983, A/C, automatic, electric heaters. Excellent condition. Tele. 5336089. (AT4-AJ-3)

HONDA Civic, 1981, silver, automatic, AC, in very good condition. KD495 cash. Tele. Mr Ashian, 4878197, after 1 pm only. (AT2-41580-3)

MITSUBISHI Lancer, 82 model, AC, manual, insured until Nov. 88. Best offer over KD200. Tele. 5610725, after 4 pm. (AT3-41595-2)

TOYOTA Cressida, 1983 DX, AC, blue, automatic transmission. In good condition. KD1100 ono cash. Tele. M. S. Nasoordeen, 4895149. (AT2-41575-3)

NISSAN Liberty, 1983, AC, fully automatic, white, with sunroof, in very good condition. KD900 cash. Tel. Ata, 4314147, 3-6 pm. (AT3-41599-3)

NISSAN Stanza, 1.8 SGL, December 1984, white, fully automatic and five door, hatchback, sunroof, AC, stereo cassette and radio, power steering, driven by a lady, in excellent condition. KD 950. Tele. 2404573. (AT4-41612-2)

RENAULT 21, 1988, automatic, chocolate colour, 100 km, in excellent condition. KD 3500. Tele. Jawed Asrar, 5637514, 3.30-8.30 pm. (AT3-41589-2)

FIAT 78, Reg up to April 89, automatic, silver, overhauled engine in Nov, in very good condition. KD 350. Tele. Ramesh, 2652396. (AT4-41597-3)

BMW, 635 CSi late 1981, dark grey metallic, full options with American bumpers in excellent condition, must see. Tele. 5635630. (AT4-41613-2)

CITROEN CX 25 Prestige, '86, AC, fully automatic, bronze, 30,000 kms. In a very good condition with service records, etc. KD2500. Tele. Dunford, 5314737. (AT4-41616-3)

GALANT GLS 1984, white, manual, AC, radio and Toyota Corolla, 1984, automatic, low mileage. Very good conditions. KD850 and 1100 respectively. Tele. Saleem, 4887482, 10 am - 9 pm. (AT4-41621-2)

HOLDEN, 1978, AC, in excellent condition. Maintained by an engineer. Single owner. Going very cheap. Tele. 2418824/2424048, 7.30 am - 11.30 pm, 4331985, 6-8 pm. (AT2-41571-3)

MITSUBISHI Sapporo, 1984, AC, fully automatic, black, with sunroof, in very good condition. KD600. Cash. Tele. Ferouq, 2459891. (AT4-41606-3)

Electronics

SONY, Handycam video camera, 8mm with a case. Rarely used. KD250. Tele. 2561236. (AT2-41583-3)

YAMAHA 200 watt, class A stereo, amplifier and matching preamp in immaculate condition. KD300. Tele. Mark, 4813566 ext 235. (AT3-41600-3)

Miscellaneous

3 Italian salon chairs, hardly used. Tele. Ibrahim, 2634581. (AT2-41568-3)

KAWAI electronic organ, model E650DX, sparingly used. In showroom condition. Tele. 3916159, 1-3 pm for appointment. (AT4-41508-6)

SOFA set, gas range, fridge, crockery, mixer, cushions, carpet cleaner for sale. Tele. 2414850, 10 am - 12 noon, 4-6 pm. (AT2-41588-3)

COOKER, carpet, curtains, lamps, crockery, glassware, miscellaneous household goods. 2455315, 2404870. (AT4-41608-3)

PIANO, Yamaha professional dark brown, upright, KD500 ono. Only genuinely interested, tele Brigitte, 2402540, after 10 am. (AT4-41602-2)

2 FLATS 1000 sq ft each, near Andheri (e) Bombay and 1 flat 1350 sq ft also at Andheri (e). Tele. 5641121, Fridays only. (AT4-41598-3)

LOST

PASSPORT No. 105166 in the name of Shaikh Abdul Rahman Mohammed, lost in the Firdous area. Tele. Abu Salem, 2429761, 7 am - 1 pm. (AT4-41605-3)

WANTED

PEUGEOT 505 Box, in good condition. Contact Mohammed, P.O. Box 23872, Safat. (AT4-41614-3)

TOYOTA Hiace model 80-82. Price above KD600. Tele. 2436781, 8 am - 12 pm, 4-8 pm. (AT3-41601-3)

NAME CHANGE

I HEREBY change my name from Gurmit to Gurmeet Babbar, holder of Indian Passport No. U 298680. (AT4-41625-2)

BUY LAND IN TEXAS, USA

\$30/sq mtr — 30% down payment, balance to be paid within 96 months
DION PEREZ
POB 7752 Horseshoe Bay, Texas, 78654 USA

REQUIRED Refrigeration Mechanics

With heavy duty licence and transferable residence.
Pl call: Mahmoud, tel: 4835624, 4835680.

ACCOMMODATION REQUIRED

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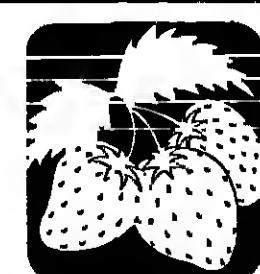
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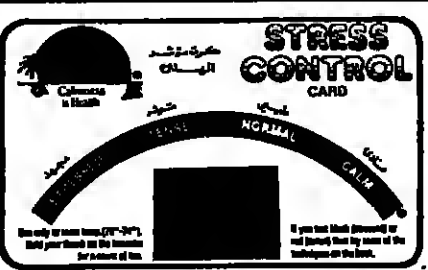
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مخلوط حکومت بنالیں گی

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اسلام آباد (۲۸ مارچ) (پ) مریضوں کی حالت کا جائزہ لیا گیا ہے۔ مریضوں کی حالت کا جائزہ لیا گیا ہے۔ مریضوں کی حالت کا جائزہ لیا گیا ہے۔

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اسرائیل سعودی عرب کے اندرونی

معلومات میں مداخلت کر رہا ہے

اسلام آباد (۲۸ مارچ) (پ) اسرائیل سعودی عرب کے اندرونی معلومات میں مداخلت کر رہا ہے۔

دہشت گردوں اور پاکستان میں چار روزہ فوجی جارحیت کے بغیر ختم

پاکستان نے دوسری گھنٹہ چار روزہ فوجی جارحیت کو ختم کر دیا

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عراقی سفارت خانے سے فائرنگ

دو دنوں کے دوران فلسطینیوں کی شہریت کے بغیر مریضوں کی شہریت بنالیں گی۔

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امریکہ جیٹروں اور کرات میں قتل کے خاتمے کیلئے سوویت جواب کا منتظر ہے

امریکہ جیٹروں اور کرات میں قتل کے خاتمے کیلئے سوویت جواب کا منتظر ہے۔

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ایرانی کشمیریوں نے دو ہزار تین لاکھ لگائی قمری عراق کے 3 مینرائل حملے۔

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مملکت کا تار بننے والے سیرسکریٹری بلایا جبرہ کے جی کا پٹرک لینڈنگ

مملکت کا تار بننے والے سیرسکریٹری بلایا جبرہ کے جی کا پٹرک لینڈنگ۔

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پاکستان "تحفظ ازم" کے خلاف

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چین میں سرکاری مشینری کو موثر۔

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TOP-SEEDED SWEDE SCORES FOUR-SET VICTORY

Wilander holds off Connors in final

KEY BISCAYNE, Florida, March 28 (UPI): Mats Wilander's booming serve wore down tenacious Jimmy Connors yesterday as the top-seeded Swede posted a four-set victory in the Lipton International Players Championships final, foiling Connors' bid for his first tournament title in 3 1/2 years.

Wilander earned \$112,500 for his 6-4, 4-6, 6-4, 6-4 victory over the second-seeded Connors, 35, who has not won an event since the Tokyo indoor on Oct 21, 1984. Connors played a serve-and-volley game against the baseline-oriented Wilander, coming to the net 111 times on the hardcourt.

Connors, who has one of the game's best service returns, broke Wilander five times in 10 service games over the first two sets. But Wilander, 23, who won his third Australian Open title in January, won his next seven service games and nine of his final 10.

Connected
Wilander generated 10 aces, including three straight in the second game of the third set. For the match, which lasted 3 hours and 38 minutes, Wilander connected on 75 per cent of his first serves compared to 67 per cent for Connors.

Wilander is 5-0 lifetime against Connors, who was Wilander's boyhood hero. Connors has lost in 11 straight tournament finals since beating Ivan Lendl in Tokyo.



Wilander holds his trophy after beating Connors.



Connors returns the ball to Wilander. (Reuters wire-photos)

"That was obviously the biggest difference in the match," Wilander said of his serve. "He served well, but I got more free points on my serve and at the end I got more confident and he was getting frustrated because he had

to go to work so hard on his service game and I won a few at love."

Wilander, the world's second-ranked player, moved closer to top-ranked Ivan Lendl than any player in 2 1/2 years. Wilander's

average points per tournament is 138.52. Lendl is at 160.80.

John McEnroe, on Nov 25, 1985, was the last player to be so close to Lendl, when he had an average of 142 to 160 for Lendl, who did not play the Lipton

because of a foot injury.

Neither player served well to start, with Connors losing three of his first four service games and Wilander losing two of his opening three. But Wilander held serve in the eighth game to go up 5-3. He won his serve at love in the 10th game to take the set 6-4.

Connors took a 3-1 lead in the second set before Wilander rallied to tie at 3-3 and 4-4. Connors held service and broke Wilander to win the set.

Wilander's serve was outstanding early in the third set. He won his first service game at love, then lost only one point on his next. He broke Connors in the ninth game and held serve in the 10th to win the set.

Wilander jump out to a 4-1 lead in the final set. Connors excited the crowd of approximately 12,000 at the International Tennis Centre by winning three of the next four games. Wilander then held serve to win the match.

"I played well," said Connors, who earned \$56,250. "I went in with a game plan and stuck to my game plan. I got a lot of opportunities and took advantage of a lot of them. Over the past two weeks, I've played darn good tennis."

"What he did in the third set was serve a little better."

Connors' serve-and-volley attack surprised Wilander, and the two-time French Open finalist said it took him a while to adjust.

NES finish at top in rugby tourney

A TEAM of staff and pupils from the New English School (NES) took the main honours in the Kuwait Nomads' Annual 7-a-side Rugby Tournament, sponsored by Securicor.

Seven teams entered the tournament, which was initially split into two pools, with the pool winners meeting in the tournament final, and the pool runners-up contesting the "Plate" final.

Scrapping
The NES looked impressive from the opening match in pool A, in which they defeated a game Ernst & Whinney side 14-0. Meanwhile, the eventual winners of Pool B, Sporting Mina Horne, were having a much tougher time, scrapping through 10-6 against the pupils of the Kuwait English School (KES).

In the next game both the Mini-rugby Dads and Wilkins' VII looked likely to give the NES a tough time later on, and the sides fought out a 14-14 draw, though the efforts certainly took their toll on the veterans of the Mini-rugby squad.

The Hornets ensured their place in the final with a convincing, if surprising 8-0 win against Robinson's VII, whilst in Pool A Wilkins' VII confirmed their potential by beating Ernst & Whinney 8-0.

The tiring Mini-rugby side lost all chances of qualifying for a final berth, going down to the NES and Ernst & Whinney, 14-0 and 10-2. So it was left to Wilkins' VII in the last pool match to attempt to topple the NES and gain a final place at their expense. In what was probably the best match of the tournament, the game ebbed and flowed as first one team, then the other gained

the upper hand, and with three tries each, it was the kicking that proved crucial, the NES actually managing to convert one to move into the final, leaving Wilkins' VII to contest the plate against Robinson's VII who edged the KES 14-10.

The Plate final was fiercely competitive, with some good sevens being delayed. Unfortunately the score of 18-0 to Wilkins' VII did not reflect the amount of effort that Robinson and his side put into the match. The score of the main final was also one-sided, though this more fairly reflected the performance of the two sides as the NES ran away by 24 points to 6.

The Hornets had clearly stiffened up badly as they had a long wait for the match, and they never really showed their true ability, though they tackled valiantly throughout the match. At the end of the tournament, Ron Hibbert of Securicor presented the trophies to the successful teams.

The final "trophy" match of the season takes place at Fintas this evening (kick off 7.30 pm) when England and Ireland contest the M.F. Kent Cup.

England, having already beaten Wales, Scotland, and the Rest of the World are going for the "Grand Slam," but Irish skipper Barney O'Hooligan is determined to retain the Cup that Ireland have held for the past three seasons under his leadership.

O'Hooligan has lost some stars from previous seasons, notably O'Malley, O'MacWart, and O'Sland, but has been able to recruit some able deputies in the shape of O'Brien, O'Tarbet and O'Migod.

Nebiolo under pressure to quit in jump scandal

ROME, March 28, (Reuters): International athletics chief Primo Nebiolo faced pressure today to quit as head of the Italian federation after an inquiry said the long jumper at the World Championships in Rome was fixed to win Italy a medal.

The Italian federation, Fidal, said today its secretary-general Luciano Barra, who the inquiry implicated in covering up the scandal, had resigned.

Italy's Olympic Committee called for disciplinary action against Barra and six other federation officials named in the affair, which brought Giovanni Evangelisti the bronze with a falsely-measured jump.

Implicated
Nebiolo, International Athletic Federation (IAAF) president since 1983, was not implicated by the inquiry, set up by the Olympic committee after doubts about an IAAF probe which found no evidence that last September's competition was rigged.

But sports commentators said there must be a major shake-up at the top of the national federation and noted allegations by the inquiry that the IAAF had attempted to obstruct its work.

"Can the leadership of a federation maintain credibility when its officials do their utmost to falsify results? Our answer is 'no'," La Gazzetta dello Sport newspaper said.

"The gravity of the affair and the need for change in Fidal call for drastic and radical solutions. Only one doubt remains whether Nebiolo is capable of conducting such an operation," it said.

Nebiolo, a 64-year-old trained lawyer and former long jumper, has been president of Fidal since 1969 and vice-chairman of Italy's Olympic Committee (Coni) since 1978.

Dissatisfaction with the way his federation works had been running high even before the Evangelisti scandal erupted.

More than 500 Italian trainers met in the face of Fidal opposition at the weekend to decry what they said was a "perverse policy" of promoting the image of athletics in Italy in terms of a small band of officials, trainers and athletes.

"The grass roots have been abandoned," the trainers said in a statement. They accused Fidal leaders of arrogance and launched a campaign to replace them at the next elections.

Qadir takes three easy wickets as Pakistan draw

GEORGETOWN, Guyana, March 28, (Reuters): Wrist-spinner Abdul Qadir gave the first demonstration of his menace on Pakistan's Caribbean tour yesterday with a late burst of wicket-taking against the West Indies Board XI.

With Imran Khan delaying his declaration until tea on the fourth and final day when Pakistan were 230 for four in their second innings, a lead of 384, a draw was a foregone conclusion long before the end.

But the closing stages of the contest were enlivened by Qadir who in nine overs took three wickets at a personal cost of only 27 runs to reduce the Board XI to 90 for four at the close.

Scoreboard
PAKISTAN first innings 495 for nine declared (Shoaib Mohammad 208 not out, Aamir Malik 51)
WEST INDIES Board XI first innings 341 (K. Arthurton 132)
PAKISTAN second innings (over-ought 42 for one)
Mudassar Nazar b Butts 72
Moinad Atiq c Seeram b Gray 22
Shoaib Mohammad c Dhaniram b Harper 43
Salim Malik not out 40
Aamir Malik c Lambert b Butts 9
Ejaz Ahmed not out 22
Extras (b-5 lb-3 ub-4) 22
Total (four wickets declared) 230
Fall of wickets: 1-41 2-145 3-165 4-176

Sudesh Dhaniram was Qadir's first victim — stumped as he left his crease to aim a big drive. Clayton Lambert was caught behind when he failed to spot Qadir's googly and Arthurton, trying to cut a flipper, was well taken by Imran at slip.

Qadir could have had a fourth wicket if Zakir Khan, running back from mid-off, had held onto a high catch from Phil Simmons, who made an attractive 45 not out.

Salim Malik took the fourth Board XI wicket when Rabin-dranath Seeram went down the pitch and was stumped by Aamir Malik, giving the stand-in wicket-keeper his sixth victim of the match.

Earlier, Pakistan opener Mudassar Nazar had scored his first fifty of the tour with an aggressive 72 which contained 10 fours and a six. Together with Shoaib Mohammad, who made 43, he added 104 for the second wicket.

Pakistan manager Intikhab



Budd: S. African ties causing problems

Africa may urge Games boycott

CASABLANCA, March 28, (Reuters): African nations may be urged to boycott the Olympic Games in Seoul in September if South African-born runner Zola Budd takes part, the secretary-general of the continent's top sports body said yesterday.

Amadou Lamine Ba of the Supreme Council for Sports (SCSA) told Reuters there was growing evidence to show that Budd, who holds a British passport, had not broken her ties with South Africa.

Budd pulled out of the British team for last Saturday's World Cross-country Championships in Auckland after pressure from several quarters, including the SCSA which says she took part in a cross-country event in South Africa last year.

Picked
Asked if the Supreme Council would mount similar opposition against Budd if she was picked for the British Olympic team, Ba replied: "If need be."

"We are not in favour of boycotting any Games because if we boycott the level of our sports will go down, but if we have to pay that price for our dignity we will do so," he said in an interview.

Ba, in Morocco for the finals of the 16th Africa Nations Cup soccer competition, said the SCSA opposed passports of convenience.

O'Donnell wins cancer battle

MELBOURNE, March 28, (Reuters): Australian Test cricketer all-rounder Simon O'Donnell expects to play next season after winning his battle against cancer, his manager said today.

O'Donnell, 24, has undergone three months' chemotherapy since doctors diagnosed cancer in his chest after Australia won the World Cup in India and Pakistan last year.

Manager Jeff Joseph said specialists told O'Donnell they could no longer find a trace of the malignant lymphoma which threatened his life.



Qadir: late burst

Alam confirmed that spinner Ijaz Faqih, called for as cover for the injured Tasnuaf Ahmed, had arrived in Georgetown.

Scoreboard
PAKISTAN first innings 495 for nine declared (Shoaib Mohammad 208 not out, Aamir Malik 51)
WEST INDIES Board XI first innings 341 (K. Arthurton 132)
PAKISTAN second innings (over-ought 42 for one)
Mudassar Nazar b Butts 72
Moinad Atiq c Seeram b Gray 22
Shoaib Mohammad c Dhaniram b Harper 43
Salim Malik not out 40
Aamir Malik c Lambert b Butts 9
Ejaz Ahmed not out 22
Extras (b-5 lb-3 ub-4) 22
Total (four wickets declared) 230
Fall of wickets: 1-41 2-145 3-165 4-176

Did not bat: Imran Khan, Salim Yousuf, Naveed Anjum, Hafiz Shahid, Abdul Qadir.

Bowling: Gray 13-3-38-1, Bishop 10-1-40-0, Collymore 3-0-10-0, Butts 26-6-66-2, Harper 18-2-42-1, Dhaniram 2-0-9-0, Arthurton 2-0-7-0.

WEST INDIES Board XI second innings
C. Lambert c Aamir b Qadir 15
S. Dhaniram c Aamir b Qadir 7
F. Simmons not out 45
K. Arthurton c Imran b Qadir 4
R. Seeram c Aamir b Salim Malik 6
R. Harper not out 6
Extras (b-5 lb-2) 7
Total (four wickets) 90
Fall of wickets: 1-26 2-27 3-39 4-74
Did not bat: D. Collymore, D. Williams, A. Gray, C. Butts, I. Bishop.

Bowling: Imran 10-1-34-0, Anjum 2-0-11-0, Qadir 9-3-27-3, Salim Malik 2-1-11-1.

McCumber sets record for victory

PONTE VEDRA, Fla., March 28, (Reuters): Local favourite Mark McCumber set a tournament record and collected the biggest pay cheque of his 14-year career for his four-stroke victory at the \$1.25 million Players Championship yesterday.

McCumber was rock steady over the final two rounds as he ran away from the field and recorded a 15-under-par 273 total worth \$225,000. The winner's check boosted McCumber into the lead on the LPGA Tour earnings list with \$368,468.

Mike Reid finished second at 11-under-par 277 and collected \$135,000 for his efforts.

Curt Byrum and South African Fulton Allem and David Frost finished tied for third place a shot further back at 278.

Suspended
McCumber began the day on the fourth hole of his third round, which was suspended on Saturday because of heavy rain and lightning. His five-under-par 67 for the third round left him two shots ahead of Frost and a three over Payne Stewart.

Frost birdied the first hole of the final round to pull within one, but McCumber's 10-foot birdie putt on the ninth hole gave him back his two-shot margin.

Birdies on the 11th and 12th holes sealed the victory.

McCumber finished the round at three-under-par 69 after a bogey on the last hole, his only bogey of the final 36 holes.

Reid closed fast with a five-under-par 67 to overtake Frost, who struggled on the back nine and finished with an even-par 72.

Ku scores first win on LPGA tour

PHOENIX, Ariz., March 28, (Reuters): Ok-Hee Ku of South Korea sank a 12-foot, par-saving putt on the final hole to secure her first career victory on the US LPGA Tour at the \$350,000 Turquoise Classic yesterday.

The South Korean recorded a final round one-under-par 72 for an 11-under-par total to edge out late-charging rookie Dottie Mochrie and Japan's Ayako Okamoto, who finished tied for second place at 10-under-par 282.

Ku's chip on the final hole went 12 feet past the cup, but she calmly sank the putt after both Mochrie and Okamoto carded birdies to set up a possible three-way playoff.

Birdies
"I felt I could win sometime this year on the LPGA Tour, but because my putting has been a drawback, I did not think I would win this soon," said Ku, who finished her round with eight straight pars.

Ku recorded birdies on the eighth and 10th holes with her only bogey of the round coming in between on the par-four ninth hole where she missed a six-foot putt.

Okamoto was tied for the lead after 11 holes, but bogeys on the 12th and 17th cost her a share of the lead.

Mochrie's second place finish was good enough to earn her an invitation to next week's dinah shore classic.

"I felt good about my putt on the final hole," said Ku, who earned \$52,500 for her victory.

Oesth tells rivals to learn from Swedes

PARIS, March 28, (Reuters): Swedish team chief Glenn Oesth advised rivals to learn from the Swedes and practice harder after his players swept the men's titles at the European Table Tennis Championships for the second successive time.

The depth of Sweden's talent was perfectly illustrated yesterday when Mikael Appelgren, who did not rate a place in the trio which won the team event last Tuesday, recaptured the singles title.

Toughest
Appelgren, who comfortably beat Soviet number one Andrei Mazunov in the final, fought his toughest battle against top-seeded compatriot Jan-Ove Waldner in the semifinals when he recovered from the loss of the first two games to win in five.

Appelgren, who earlier yesterday teamed with Waldner to claim the men's doubles title, brought Sweden their fourth European men's singles title in a row following his success in 1982 and wins by Ulf Bengtsson in 1984 and Joergen Persson in 1986.

It was Sweden's third sweep of the men's team, doubles and singles crowns after 1966 and 1986. So, what must the rest do to catch up?

"Start to practice the right way — hard — and ask Swedish trainers how they practice," Oesth told Reuters.

Oesth, 32, said Sweden benefited from having young coaches.

"We've grown up with a new way of playing. It changed in the '80s," said Oesth, who credited a 1980 trip to China as a turning point.

"Sweden is always good at taking impressions and translating them in a Swedish way. We're very open-minded to learn new things. There are no secrets inside clubs — everybody works for the national team."

"We've been lucky to have many players coming on at the same time. We have fantastic competition in the team. If you're lazy, you're out."

Attest
One week every month is devoted to training camps. "If we stayed two weeks we'd kill each other," Oesth said.

Appelgren, 26, himself can attest to the intense competition — having been left off the three-strong Swedish Olympic selection and the team which beat England here to carry off the European title for the ninth time.

The singles title was especially gratifying for Appelgren, who was plagued by injuries after vintage years in 1982, when he

gained his first European crown and was runner-up in the World Cup, and 1983 when he won the World Cup — the last European to do so.

"He was disappointed not to be nominated (here). He thought he should play in the final. He took it hard and we had a long tough discussion during the rest day," Oesth said.

Despite the Swedes' success, a gulf still separates them from the Asians, and particularly the Chinese, who have dominated world table tennis for a decade.

"We are the Chinese in Europe," Oesth said. "To beat China you need more than tactics. (In Asia) they use a penhold style of fast attack all the time. In Europe it's not so fast. We need practice to play tournaments against this style."

And you can expect the Swedes to do just that.

Australians fine Botham \$3,700

SYDNEY, March 28, (Reuters): Australia's cricket authorities today fined Ian Botham \$3,700 for alleged misbehaviour during a domestic flight and in a dressing room.

The English star was also warned he might be banned from the game in Australia if he was involved in further such incidents.

Code
The Australian cricket board said in a statement the fine was imposed by Queensland code of behaviour commissioner Ron Archer after an inquiry.

"If a similar breach of the code comes before me during the next season then Ian Botham will have a long holiday from the cricket fields of Australia," Archer said.

Botham's behaviour could not be tolerated, he said.

An Australian court fined Botham \$590 last week after he admitted charges of assault and offensive behaviour during a flight between Melbourne and

Perth on March 15. In addition, Botham is alleged to have wilfully damaged a dressing room after a match in Launceston, Tasmania, in February. The Tasmanian Cricket Council is investigating reports of that incident.

"I have seriously considered suspension as a penalty but in view of the fact the season is finished and Ian Botham has six months to consider his actions I have decided to impose fines totalling \$3700," the statement quoted Archer as saying.

"I am conscious of the fact that Ian Botham is a larger than life personality and as such attracts attention from the media and public, some of which may be unfair," Archer said.

"I am, however, convinced on this occasion his actions, while possibly exaggerated in the media, were extremely detrimental to the game of cricket and cannot be tolerated," he added.

Tasmania's code of behaviour commissioner Ted Stukes today

announced that he had fined Australian former Test bowler Dennis Lillee \$1,330 for his involvement in the dressing room incident.

Botham told reporters before leaving for Paris on Saturday that he "couldn't give a stuff" about the plane incident.

"Life goes on — it's water under the bridge. I don't drag things on and on like the media does," he said.

In London, Alan Smith, chief executive of the Test and County Cricket Board (TCCB), said in a statement: "We note that Ian Botham has been dealt with by the Western Australia civil court and by the cricket authorities in Australia."

"In the circumstances no further action will be taken under the disciplinary committee regulations of the TCCB."

The statement followed discussions between Smith, TCCB chairman Raman Subba Row and Peter Bromage, head of the disciplinary committee.

Evergreen edge Hubara to retain Rahim League title



Asad Baig (left) receiving the trophy from Suhail Rahim.

EVERGREEN defeated Hubara by two runs in a close game to clinch the Rahim League title for the second consecutive year at the KOC New Ground, Ahmadi on Thursday.

Evergreen themselves are to be blamed for allowing the match so close as they could not bowl 23 required overs in the allotted time. When over No. 19 started, which proved to be the last over, Hubara required 14 runs to win the match on a faster run-rate.

Baldy and Oliver tried their

best but could manage only 11 runs, thus failing in their bid to register a splendid victory. Had Evergreen been able to bowl the remaining four overs, in which they scored 45 runs, the victory margin could have been much bigger.

Evergreen batted first and were given a good start by Zulgermain and Ashraf Rana with the former being more dominant.

Rana was first to go at 103 after scoring 24 runs. Zulger-



The Evergreen squad with the chial guest and other officials.

nain's knock of 71, which included 11 fours and sixes, ended in the next over when he was given lbw to Denesis.

The next batsmen, Razzak and Azam started where the openers had left off and continued to dominate the bowlers till the end. Razzak scored 32 while Azam remained unbeaten on 41, which included one six and three hits to the fence.

When the time was called by the umpires at the end of 23 overs, Evergreen had scored 182

for three. Denesis (two) and Baldy (one) were the only wicket takers for Hubara.

Hubara, requiring eight runs per over for victory were given a reasonably good start by skipper Shipton and Talbot, who put on 66 runs for the first wicket in nine overs. But once the openers were separated, the wickets kept on falling at regular intervals and Hubara could manage 135 runs for the loss of six wickets in 19 overs.

Shipton (39), including four

4's, Talbot (25), Denesis (28), including five 4's, and Baldy (23 n.o.) were the only batsmen who could get into double figures.

For Evergreen, G. Haider was the most successful bowler with three wickets for 33 runs in six overs. Anjum Raza and Asad Baig also had a scalp each.

At the end of the match, Suhail Rahim of Ashraf and Co. Ltd., the sponsor, awarded the trophy to Asad Baig, the skipper of Evergreen and distributed prizes among the winners.

SPORTS

SPORTS BRIEFS

Cup squad

PARIS, March 28, (Reuters): France named a full-strength squad today for next month's Davis Cup world group quarter-final tennis clash against Australia. Yannick Noah and Henri Leconte, reunited in the Davis Cup for the first time in more than two years last month, are joined by Guy Forget and Thierry Tulasne.

United striker

LONDON, March 28, (Reuters): Norman Whiteside, Manchester United's Northern Ireland international striker, asked his club for a transfer today.

W.German team

BONN, March 28, (Reuters): West Germany's Davis Cup captain Niki Pile today named an unchanged team, led by former Wimbledon champion Boris Becker, to play Denmark in a world group second-round match from April 8 to 10.

Boat race

LONDON, March 28, (AP): Oxford will have the heaviest crew in the history of the event when it meets Cambridge on Saturday in the 134th University Boat Race.

Comeback fight

LONDON, March 28, (AP): Lennie Valdez, a veteran American with a 31-7-2 record, was named today as the opponent for former world featherweight boxing champion Barry McGuigan's comeback fight on April 20.

Fluminense win

RIO DE JANEIRO, March 28, (Reuters): Fluminense put an end to Flamengo's five-month unbeaten run when they defeated their arch-rivals 1-0 in the last week of play in the first stage of the Rio de Janeiro state League Championship.

Olympic team

PERTH, Australia, March 28, (Reuters): Marathon runner Roh de Castella, 400 metres hurdler Debbie Flintoff-King and 400 metres runner Darren Clark head a 27-strong Australian athletics team for this year's Seoul Olympics.

Title fight

MADRID, March 28, (Reuters): World Boxing Association (WBA) junior-featherweight champion Bernardo Pinango of Venezuela must defend his title against Julio Gervacio of the Dominican Republic within the next four months, officials said yesterday.

Welsh squad

CARDIFF, March 28, (Reuters): Wales have named six new caps in their 26-strong Rugby Union team to tour New Zealand next month. The uncapped players are fullback Steve Bowling, winger Caryn Davies, centre Mark Hall, scrumhalf Jonathan Griffiths, number eight Tim Fauvel and flanker David Bryant.

Cardiff's bid

CARDIFF, March 28, (Reuters): Welsh sports officials, worried that Cardiff's bid for the 1994 Commonwealth Games is in jeopardy, will try to dissuade Welsh Rugby Union players from joining a proposed international tour of South Africa this year.

REAL PRESERVE EIGHT-POINT LEAD

Gullit despairs of catching Napoli

ROME, March 28, (Reuters): Ruud Gullit, Europe's Footballer of the Year, may be enjoying the financial rewards of his switch to Italian soccer but is finding the move is also fraught with frustrations.

While European Cup semi-finalists PSV Eindhoven, the club Gullit left for a record \$8.5 million last season, were scoring six goals yesterday to take their tally to 104 in 28 League games, the Dutch star was taking part in AC Milan's goalless away draw in the Italian League.

Opportunity

Milan were held by second-from-bottom Avellino, thus missing an opportunity to close the four-point gap on League leaders Napoli, who played safe to draw 0-0 at Torino.

Gullit, showing distinct signs of disenchantment with the way his team played, said: "We created only one chance at goal when we should have squashed Avellino into their area the whole time. I don't think we've much hope of latching onto Napoli if we go on playing like this."

Milan have trimmed only one point off Napoli's lead in the past four matches and with six games left to the end of the season, Diego Maradona's champions seem to be moving confidently towards their second title.

But Napoli face a crucial test in two weeks' time when Italian



Sanchez scored his 25th and 26th goals of the season

soccer resumes after the Easter break with the leaders at home to a resurgent Internazionale. AC Milan host to bottom-placed Empoli.

Inter, who have had a lacklustre season so far, shone with a brilliant yesterday that brought them a convincing 4-2 victory against third-placed Roma. Man of the Match was 20-year-old Massimo Ciocci, playing in place of suspended Aldo Serena in a

rare first team appearance which he marked with two masterly goals.

Eindhoven are on course to surpass Ajax Amsterdam's 21-year-old Dutch League scoring record, needing 19 more goals from their last six matches.

Their coach Guus Hiddink said they would not ease up with the approach of the April 6 European Cup semi-final against Real Madrid — "whoever holds

back will certainly get injuries" — and to emphasise the point, his players scored six goals against Pec Zwolle yesterday.

Two early goals by Wim Kieft put PSV on course for their 23rd League win of the season.

The Dutch champions also possess defensive qualities, as they demonstrated in the goalless draw against Bordeaux in the home leg of their European Cup quarter-final 12 days ago, and these are again likely to be tested by Real Madrid in Spain next week.

Real's Mexican striker Hugo Sanchez scored twice yesterday, his 25th and 26th goals of the season, in the 3-1 win over bottom-club Sahadell. The win boosted the Spanish Champions' points to 50 in 30 games and preserved their eight-point lead over Real Sociedad who beat Logrones 4-0.

Sociedad's next match is in the Spanish Cup final on Wednesday when they play Barcelona, who attracted only 15,000 spectators on Saturday for their home game against Real Betis. Those fans who stayed away made the winning decision, Real Betis winning 1-0 for their first away win since August.

Benfica, who play Steaua Bucharest in the other European Cup semi-final next week, failed to make headway in their attempt to catch Porto at the top

of the Portuguese League when they drew 0-0 at Salgueiros. Porto also featured in a goalless draw at Portimonense but with an eight-point lead, their hold on the title looks secure.

Steaua's 2-0 win over Petrolul Ploesti at the weekend was their 18th victory in 20 Romanian League games this season — they drew the other two — and they have scored 72 goals while conceding 10.

Werder Bremen, chasing a League and Cup treble at home and in Europe, beat Bayern Munich 3-1 in an incident-packed match on Saturday to go four points clear at the top of the West German League.

Adjudged

Werder's sweeper Gunar Sauer, expecting a free kick in the 25th minute, picked up the ball in the penalty area. Bayern's World Cup midfielder Lothar Matthaus converted from the spot.

It took the home side just two minutes to equalise when they were awarded another hotly-disputed penalty. Frank Ordenewitz scored after Hans Pflueger was adjudged to have brought down Karl-Heinz Riedle. Even the Werder players looked surprised by the decision.

Werder went ahead in the 39th minute with a brilliant solo effort by Riedle, who also scored Werder's third five minutes from the end.

Police hold over 80 fans at Roma match

MILAN, Italy, March 28, (Reuters): Police said they detained more than 80 fans after violence yesterday at an Italian First Division soccer match between Internazionale Milan and Roma.

Sixty of those held, all Roma fans, were charged with criminal damage and violent behaviour after they wrecked a city bus taking them from San Siro stadium to Milan railway station, a police spokesman said. The rest were not charged.

Five fans, two policemen and a stadium security guard were injured slightly during fighting before the game, which Internazionale won 4-2.

Hit

Roma goalkeeper Franco Tancredi was badly injured last December at San Siro when he was hit by a firecracker thrown from the terraces during a match between Roma and AC Milan.

Inter and AC Milan share the ground.

Tancredi, who stopped breathing after the firecracker hit him and needed the kiss of life, said Inter fans had taunted him with threats of another attack when he returned to the stadium for the first time yesterday.

"I went onto the pitch trying not to think about what happened last time. But I was forced to remember when some fans started shouting about throwing another firework at me," he told reporters after the game.

Bridge

RESULTS of the Hilton Bridge Club game played on Sunday:

1. Sudhir Dumas & Peter Fernandez
2. Dhruva Mukerjee & Mohammed Merchant
3. Sandra Turvey & Adel Bayoumi

Results of the SAS Bridge Club game played on Sunday:

1. Lyn Edwards & Pearl Levey
2. Jamila Akel & Camelia Gurguis
3. Lily Jundi & Madge McKenzie

There will be no bridge game on Sunday, April 3.

The Sheraton Bridge Club tournament will be held this evening at 8.00 pm at Messiah Beach Hotel.

Butcher resumes full training

Clemence decides to quit soccer

LONDON, March 28, (UPI): Ray Clemence, 39, the Tottenham goalkeeper who has made more than 1,100 first team appearances in a career spanning 23 years, has decided to retire after losing a battle to recover from a calf muscle injury.

Clemence, who played 61 times for England, broke down in a reserve match in his third comeback game last week and has been advised not to play again this season. He has decided to quit the game and will look for a manager's job or a coaching job next season.

Clemence has won more hon-

ours than any other English player. In 14 years at Liverpool he won five League championship medals, three European Cup winners medals, two UEFA Cup medals, and one FA Cup and one League Cup winners medal.

He played in the Tottenham team that won the 1982 FA Cup final but injury kept him out of its 1984 UEFA Cup success against Anderlecht of Belgium.

In all he played in 21 different Cup finals, including five FA Cup finals — three with Liverpool and two with Tottenham including last season's defeat by

Coventry City.

Between January 1970 and August 1981 when he left Liverpool for Tottenham in a £300,000 move, he missed only seven League matches.

He was just 17 when he signed for his home town team Scunthorpe in 1965. The legendary Liverpool manager Bill Shankly took him to Liverpool in two years later.

Tottenham, which has had a traumatic season, recently signed Bobby Mimms from Everton as Clemence's eventual replacement.

The London team, managed

by ex-Barcelona boss Terry Venables also looks like losing last season's English Player of the Year, Clive Allen, to French champions Bordeaux at the end of the season.

Joined

And Nottingham Forest manager Brian Clough confirmed today that he would be making a bid for Tottenham's central defender Chris Fairclough, who joined Tottenham last year.

England centreback Terry Butcher, who broke his leg playing for Glasgow Rangers against Aberdeen Nov 17, resumed full training today for the first time.

Soviets rout British in Champions Trophy

Australia struggle past Spain

LAHORE, March 28, (Agencies): Australia beat Spain 2-1 today to share the top spot with West Germany on the fourth day of the Champions Trophy hockey tournament.

Australia, who have played one game more than West Germany, took the lead in the 15th minute through a goal by Graham Reid. The first half ended 1-0 in Australia's favour.

Surprise

In the second half, Spain fought back and managed to get an equaliser through Ignacio Escude in the 54th minute. Australia's Rick Charlesworth, who has

played for his country for the last two decades and is appearing in his last Champions Trophy tournament, got the winner for his country in the 68th minute.

The Soviet Union, who sprang a surprise by holding Pakistan to a 1-1 draw on the opening day, moved into fourth place behind Pakistan after outclassing Britain 3-1. This was the Soviets' first win in the tournament.

Britain took the lead in the 8th minute through Robert Thompson but the Soviets fought back to clinch the equaliser off a goal by Igor Anotov 15 minutes later. The first half ended 1-1.

In the second, half the Soviets launched a relentless attack on their rival's citadel and got two more goals through Anotov and Victor Deputov.

In the only game played yesterday, Pakistan beat Spain 4-0. Although Pakistan dominated the entire match against a Spanish side that played a containing game, they scored only once in the first half.

Standings

	P	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
W. Germany	2	2	0	0	4	1	4
Australia	2	2	0	0	4	1	4
Pakistan	2	1	1	0	5	1	3
Soviet Union	3	1	1	1	5	3	3
Spain	3	0	2	1	3	7	0
Britain	3	0	0	3	2	7	0

Fluminense seek to hire Menotti

RIO DE JANEIRO, March 28, (Reuters): Brazilian club Fluminense wants to hire Argentine coach Cesar Luis Menotti, recently sacked by Spanish First Division team Atletico Madrid, club vice-president Luis Antonio Almeida Braga said yesterday.

"Fluminense want to think high. Our objective is to win international prestige. We plan to start by hiring Menotti," Almeida Braga said.

Discussed

He said a first contact had been made with Menotti by phone from Madrid, but no fees were discussed.

"We first asked Menotti whether he would be interested in working to Brazil immediately, after his response, he will talk about a contract," he said.

Vaca's camp accuses Honeyghan of dirty tactics

LONDON, March 28, (Agencies): Charges of dirty tactics from champion Mexican Jorge Vaca's camp have heightened the tension before tomorrow's World Boxing Council (WBC) welterweight title rematch against Briton Lloyd Honeyghan.

At a rules meeting yesterday, tempers flared after the champion's spokesman accused Honeyghan of using his head to illegal advantage in the ring.

"We've noticed that Honeyghan always goes in with his head," said Francisco Bazan. "Jorge suffered a very bad cut which needed stitches and plastic surgery after he was butted by Honeyghan the last time — even if it was accidental."

Aware

"It's obvious he's going to go after the same eye this time and we wanted the referee to be aware of our fears," he said.

Vaca lifted the title from Honeyghan last October when their bout was stopped in the eighth round after an accidental clash of heads left the Mexican badly cut over the right eye. Honeyghan was penalised one point for being the fighter to emerge unscathed from the clash and that proved the difference.

Bazan's comments enraged Honeyghan manager Mickey Duff.

"My fighter has never used his head to gain advantage in a fight," Duff said, banging his fist



Carol Castellano from New York with her husband Tony on arrival in London for the fight. Carol will make British boxing history when she judges the Vaca-Honeyghan fight. She will be the first woman to judge a world title bout. (Reuters wirephoto)

on the table and pointing a finger at Bazan. "It's an outrageous allegation designed to influence the referee."

Referee Joe Cortez, who also attended the meeting, defused

the situation. "Nobody's going to influence me. I have no preconceptions going into this fight," he said.

In the ring, the action is expected to be fierce, spurred by an

offer by Duff, wearing his promoter's hat, of \$1 million to the winner for a fight against the victor of next month's World Boxing Association title rematch between Americans Marlon Starling and challenger Mark Breland.

Vaca and Honeyghan share the same opinion about tomorrow's fight.

One of them will be forced to eat his words.

"We are going for a quick knockout — no respect," Vaca said. "I'm more determined than he is. I'll be braver and stronger. We have prepared ourselves not to become a one-defence champion."

Honeyghan, out to make history as the first British boxer to win back a world title at any weight, is unimpressed.

"He couldn't knock me out last time, when I wasn't even trying," said the challenger. "So how can he this time? I'm going to knock his head off. No mercy. If I can't beat a guy like this, I may as well quit."

Vaca is certain he'll win again, this time more cleanly.

"I was not happy with the way I won the championship," the champion said. "I was confident I was ahead when the fight was stopped the last time but I want to knock him out and show I can win the title in the right way."

While the cut Vaca sustained in the first fight took its toll on the champion, keeping him out

of the ring for several weeks while he healed, Honeyghan has also had his training problems.

The Briton still has not totally recovered from an injury to his right hand, which he claimed was hardly useable when he lost his title.

"It's not completely better but it's not bothering me like it was before the last fight," Honeyghan said. "I tested it a few times in sparring but I stopped throwing it cos' I was knocking out my sparring partners. I'm saving it for the night."

Honeyghan, who made three successful defences before losing to Vaca, did not blame the Mexican for the way the October fight ended. He vowed the judges won't be needed again.

"It was not Vaca's fault... but I don't intend letting it go to the judges again," Honeyghan said. "If there is any funny business and they deduct me a point, I want to make sure I am 10 miles in front."

Honeyghan, looking mean and menacing and dressed in a white tracksuit with the word "Ragamuffin" emblazoned on the back, repeated earlier claims that he was mentally unprepared for Vaca in October because of a number of personal problems.

"I was feeling sorry for myself. I just didn't care how much the guy was hitting me. I didn't give a damn," said the Briton, whose 31-fight winning run came to an end.



Cameroun's Cyrille Makenake (left) and Nigeria's Ekwabon Augustin in action during the final. (Reuters wirephoto)

Africa Nations Cup fails to meet high expectations

RABAT, March 28, (Reuters): The party is over and despite the warm hospitality that impressed and won many friends Morocco is left wondering whether the guests will ever come again.

From the moment a parachutist became snagged in a floodlight during the opening ceremony, the 16th Africa Nations Cup was dogged by nagging worries.

Bad refereeing, low-quality football and the cruel injustice of the rule book all combined to spoil the fun.

Although it ended well with a good, clean final between Cameroun and Nigeria, Africa's premier soccer event stubbornly refused to take off and failed to meet the high expectations which had preceded the kick off.

With its bid to hold the 1994 World Cup never far from its mind, Morocco had turned on the style and until the referees blew their whistles, it worked.

Good organisation and hard work from the Moroccan government could not compensate for what happened on the field. The eight-team tournament, which ended yesterday when Cameroun beat Nigeria 1-0 in the final, was the lowest scoring since 1962 when only four games were played.

Finishing was so poor throughout the two weeks that only 23 goals were scored in 16 games and six of those were scored in two matches against Kenya.

It seemed strangely apt that the final should be settled through a penalty.

Fifa officials and foreign newsmen all praised the hotels, good telephone connections and smoothly-run shuttle service between matches in Casablanca and the capital Rabat.

The tournament was not helped by the cruel ironies dictated by the rulebook. Ivory Coast, one of the continent's best teams, were eliminated without losing a game after drawing lots with Algeria for a semifinal place.

Both teams finished their group games with exactly the same points and goal difference.

Britain against proposed rugby tour of S. Africa

LONDON, March 28, (Reuters): The British government today spoke out against a proposed international rugby tour of South Africa, which could prompt a black African boycott of the Seoul Olympics and other major sports events.

A spokesman for Sports Minister Colin Moynihan said: "This sort of tour is discouraged by the government."

He said Moynihan's office had been in touch with the International Rugby Board (IRB) about the tour, approved by the board on Friday, but said that the minister would take no immediate action.

South Africa, isolated from official international rugby for the last four years, asked the IRB

to allow an international squad to tour the country in August and September, playing two matches against its national Springbok side.

Anti-apartheid groups, which have fought to isolate the country from all sports competition because of its race policy, reacted angrily.

The Supreme Council for Sport in Africa said yesterday in Casablanca that it would campaign to halt the tour, with an Olympic boycott "the last card," if it went ahead.

Rugby union is the national sport of South Africa's minority whites. A tour of the republic by New Zealand in 1976 led to an African boycott of that year's Olympics in Montreal.



Pakistan's Ambassador to Kuwait Zahid Saeed (right) receives a prize from the Indian Ambassador to Kuwait, N.N. Jha, after a cricket match between the Indian and Pakistani veterans at the KCL ground on Friday. The match was won by the Indian veterans.

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